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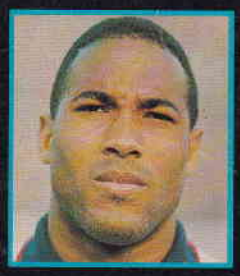

JOHN BARNES
DIEGO FUSER
ABEL XAVIER

COPA AMERICA REPORT

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ERIC WEIL REPORTS ON THE **COPA AMERICA** IN ECUADOR

Double act!

Argentina triumph again thanks to Batistuta and Goycochea

Champions again . . . Argentina captain Oscar Ruggeri lifts the Copa America.

THE CONTRASTING heroics of Gabriel Batistuta and Sergio Goycochea brought Argentina yet more improbable glory in the 1993 Copa America.

Typically decisive penalty shoot-out saves by Goycochea lifted the defending title-holders past Brazil in the quarter-finals and past Colombia in the semi-finals.

Then two impressive strikes by Batistuta beat deft but lightweight Mexico in the Final in Guayaquil.

Victory was an immense boost for Argentina ahead of the World Cup qualifiers in which they must continue without suspended Claudio Caniggia.

Argentina, as distinct from other leading South American teams, had all their available exiles which seems to indicate that they will have another struggle in the World Cup qualifying round.

But they will have a bit more time to train together before then as most of them assembled at the last moment in Ecuador. Injured Dario Franco will be a loss.

Mexico, participating as guests, were delighted to come so close after scraping into the quarter-finals as one of the best third-placed teams from group C. But this group was by far the strongest as it provided the top three in the final standings.

Group winners Colombia — who, for many again played the best soccer — beat Ecuador 1-0 in the third-place play-off.

With nobody consistently scoring goals, a Venezuelan became top scorer for the first time — Jose Dolguetta with four goals in the three group games.

Paraguay played neither attractive nor productive soccer and after scraping into the quarter-finals as one of the two best third-placed teams, went out 3-0 to Ecuador. And they don't seem to have anything better to offer for their World Cup qualifying games.

Uruguay's Italian-based players never made it to Ecuador although three of them had been registered. Their influence will be badly needed for the World Cup by an uninspiring team even though they only lost their quarter-final lead against Colombia two minutes from the end and then went out on penalties.

Brazil's fans were the only ones to expect more from what was a B side with only one foreign-based player, goalkeeper Taffarel, and he was off form and dropped after the first game. Their goalkeeper problem was apparent when they went out to Argentina in the quarter-finals in a penalty shoot-out and Zetti never looked like stopping a shot. Significantly Brazil's 22 for the World Cup qualifying games include only seven of those who were in Ecuador, but they still had the same goalkeepers.

Peru, disciplined in defence and with good teamwork, did better than expected, showing definite improvement under their new Yugoslav coach, Vladimir Popovic.

But they appeared to show their full potential which may not give them much chance in their World Cup group against likely winners Argentina or Colombia.

Ecuador's fourth place was their best ever in South American competition with a disciplined team, but home advantage and the altitude undoubtedly helped. They say, however, they will play World Cup games at sea level as most of their squad comes from low-lying districts. They may worry, but not beat, full-strength Brazil and Uruguay for the top two qualifying placec in their World Cup group.

Colombia, as in the last tournament in 1991, played some of the best soccer. They outplayed Argentina in two drawn games in Ecuador — they never seem to get the goals they deserve — before going out in the penalty shoot-out. Their battle will continue in their World Cup group with late arrival Faustino Asprilla fit and rested and likely to take a bigger part.

Winning goal . . . Argentina's Gabriel Batistuta celebrates his second against Mexico in the final.

THE FINAL ROUNDS

Quarter-finals

June 26 — In Quito
ECUADOR 3 (E. Hurtado 34, Ramirez 44 o.g, Aviles 82)
PARAGUAY 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Marcio Rezende (Bra).
Ecuador: Mendoza, Munoz, Noriega, Capurro, Montanero, Carabali, Carcelen, Fernandez (I. Hurtado), Aguinaga (Gavica), E. Hurtado, Aviles.
Paraguay: Chilavert, Barrios, Ramirez, Ayala, Suarez, Sanabria, Struway*, Sotelo (Acuca), Mendoza (Gonzalez), Nunes, Cabanas.
* Struway sent off 57 mins.

● Ecuador dominated and Paraguay had to resort to counter attacks (in a somewhat rough game) which seldom surprised the hosts and on top of that Chilavert saved a penalty from Ecuador's Carlos Munoz in the closing stages.

June 26 — In Guayaquil
COLOMBIA 1 (Perea 88)
URUGUAY 1 (Saralegui 68)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Francisco Escobar (Par).
Colombia won 5-3 on pens.
Colombia: Cordoba, Herrera, Perea, Mendoza, Perez, Alvarez, Gomez (Lozano), Garcia, Valderrama, Aristizabal (Asprilla), Valencia.
Uruguay: Siboldi, De Los Santos, Kanapkis, Sanchez, Cabrera, Ostolaza, Moran, Moas, Saralegui, Guerra (Da Silva), Pelletti.

● Colombia did most of the attacking, but their advances generally failed near goal and they looked to be on the way out when Uruguay went ahead undeservedly 22 minutes from the end. Colombia only equalized two minutes from the end and in the penalty shoot-out, Uruguay's Moas shot wide while all other attempts were successful.

June 27 — In Guayaquil
ARGENTINA 1 (Rodriguez 69)
BRAZIL 1 (Muller 37)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Alberto Tejada (Peru).
Argentina won 6-5 on pens.
Argentina: Goycochea, F. Basualdo, Borelli, Ruggeri, Altamirano, Zapata, Gorosito, Simeone, J. Basualdo (Rodriguez), Medina Bello, Batistuta (Acosta).
Brazil: Zetti, Cafu, Antonio Carlos, Valber, Roberto Carlos, Boiadeiro, Edmundo (Almir), Luisinho, Palinha, (Marquinhos), Muller, Zino.

● Brazil were closer to victory especially with better combined play in attack and they also hit the post once while Goycochea had to work harder in the Argentine goal than his opposite number. Argentina, on the other hand, were also not awarded a clear second half penalty when Acosta was brought down by Valber. When it came to the penalty shoot-out, Zetti proved rather inept and when Argentina's penalty king, Goycochea, finally parried the sixth shot, the match was over.

June 27 — In Quito
MEXICO 4 (Garcia Aspe 22 pen, 45, Alves 43, Patino 50)
PERU 2 (Del Solar 65 pen, Barco 83)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Ivan Guerrero (Chi).
Mexico: Campos, R. Ramirez, Suarez, J. Ramirez, Gutierrez, Ambriz, Patino (Flores), Galindo (L. Garcia), Garcia Aspe, Sanchez, Alves.
Peru: Miranda, Charun, Reinoso, Soto, Olivares, Martinez, (Palacios), Barco, Del Solar, Zegarra, Maestri (Carty), Rivera.

● Although Peru had more midfield control, dangerous Mexican attacks gave them a 4-0 lead shortly after half-time. Only then did Mexico let up the pressure and Peru dominated the rest of the way to pull two goals back.

Semi-finals

MEXICO 2 (Sanchez 24, R. Ramirez 55)
ECUADOR 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Alberto Tejada (Peru).
Mexico: Campos, R. Ramirez, Suarez, J. Ramirez, Gutierrez, Ambriz, Garcia Aspe, Patino (Flores), Galindo (Herrera), Sanchez, Alves.
Ecuador: Espinoza, Munoz, Capurro, Noriega, I. Hurtado, Carcelen, Caravali, Aguinaga, Fernandez (Gavica), Aviles (Chala), E. Hurtado.

● Mexico dominated the first half of a game played in rain with the field flooded in parts and they were inspired by veteran striker Hugo Sanchez who scored the first goal. Ecuador came close to equalising early in the second half just when Mexico scored their second goal and then retained more of the ball for the rest of the game, using the offside trap well to stop several of Ecuador's attacks.

Losing finalist . . . Mexico's Hugo Sanchez

July 1 in Guayaquil
ARGENTINA 0
COLOMBIA 0
Att: 15,000. **Ref:** Jorge Nieves (Uru).
Argentina won 6-5 on pens.
Argentina: Goycochea, F. Basualdo, Borelli, Ruggeri (Caceres), Altamirano, Simeone, Redondo, Zapata (Rodriguez), Gorosito, Batistuta, Acosta.
Colombia: Cordoba, Herrera, Perea, Mendoza, W. Perez, Alvarez, Gomez, Valderrama, Rincon, Asprilla, Aristizabal.

● Colombia again played the better soccer — as when the teams drew 1-1 in earlier group play — but both teams did not continue their good goal-scoring form. Colombia's Perea was sent off 25 minutes from the end and Colombia were more on top with 10 men and had a goal annulled for a doubtful offside. In the penalty shoot-out, Goycochea again saved the sixth shot, as in the previous round — for Argentina's 6-5 win.

3rd place play-off

July 3 — in Portoviejo
COLOMBIA 1 (Valencia 84)
ECUADOR 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Alberto Arboleda (Ven).
Colombia: Cordoba, Herrera, Cortes, Mendoza, Perez, Gomez, Alvarez (Garcia), Rincon, Valderrama, Aristizabal (Valencia), Asprilla.
Ecuador: Espinoza, Munoz, Noriega, Capurro, Montanero, Carabali, Carcelen, Fernandez (Tenorio), Aguinaga, Hurtado (Chala), Aviles.

● Colombia's winner came six minutes from the end, but they deserved it as they had controlled the midfield and stopped Ecuador from building up attacks with good marking. Colombia thus finished the tournament unbeaten, but home fans blamed the referee. In the second half Colombian defender Cortez cleared off his goal-line, but it looked as if the ball had crossed the line — the second time in the tournament that Colombia had been favoured in a similar incident. The referee also would not award Ecuador a penalty when Aguinaga was brought down by Gomez in the area nine minutes from the end. Valderrama stood out for the winners who also created more goal chances.

Final

July 4 — in Guayaquil
ARGENTINA (Batistuta 65, 85)
MEXICO 1 (Galindo 76 pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Marcio Rezende (Bra).
Argentina: Goycochea, F. Basualdo, Borelli, Ruggeri, Caceres, Altamirano, Zapata, Redondo, Gorosito (L. Rodriguez), Simeone, Acosta, Batistuta.
Mexico: Campos, Gutierrez (Flores), Suarez, J. Ramirez, F. Ramirez, Patino (L. Garcia), Ambriz, Galindo, Garcia Aspe, H. Sanchez, Alves.

● Not a great game, but on a par with a lot of the soccer seen before, especially from Argentina who rarely got going in attack until Batistuta broke free of his markers on a couple of occasions in the second half to score with excellent shots. Goycochea gave away the penalty, but stopped an almost certain goal. In the last 15 minutes the clean game got rough with the Mexicans doing most of the fouling which certainly did not suit them as they were the better ball players.

LEADING SCORERS

4	Jose DOLGETTA	Venezuela
3	PALHINHA	Brazil
	Jose DEL SOLAR	Peru
	Eduardo HURTADO	Ecuador
	Raul AVILES	Ecuador
	Gabriel BATISTUTA	Argentina

ERIC WEIL reports from **Ecuador**

So easy for the hosts

Group A

ECUADOR won Group A, becoming the only team in any section to win all three games and take their goals into double figures.

Whether it was the altitude, to which they were better accustomed than their visitors, the heat (ditto), the home support, the weak opposition, or a combination of all four, Ecuador sailed through.

With only three players with clubs abroad — although one of them, Alex Aguinaga, was outstanding — and eight who had played in the last Copa America, Ecuador were better prepared.

They hammered a largely inexperienced Venezuela in the opening match, 6-1, and then deservedly beat a US squad who in between the US Cup '93 tournament and their own continental (CONCACAF) championship, did not bring all their best players.

That put Ecuador in the quarter-finals, and they then beat Uruguay who, at the last moment, decided to rest some of their exiles for World Cup qualifying a month later.

Others included in their 22 — Jose Herrera, Ruben Sosa and Enzo Francescoli — did not arrive in time from their Italian clubs.

So from the start there were no big names in this group.

Ecuador were the best-organised team and Uruguay far below what is usually expected from them. The first surprise was their 2-2 draw with Venezuela, who deserved far more than that.

Then came the incredible draw by Venezuela with the United States, who lost a 3-0 lead and a point.

Uruguay's only victory was 1-0 against the US, who did enough to deserve a draw against a slow team — they seemed to fear the altitude — short of attacking ideas.

The only blot on Ecuador's record was that coach Dusan Draskovic, known as a strict disciplinarian, had to expel two players from the squad and fine 10 other players up to 200 dollars each.

The players were given permission to leave their hotel on Fathers' Day to be with their families, but defenders Holger Quinonez and Ivan Hurtado did not return until next morning and were thrown out, while 10 others returned after the stipulated time.

Surprise after surprise

Group B

THEY called this one the "group of death" from the start, because competition was liable to hectic . . . and it was, as well as full of surprises.

Brazil, top seed, turned up with a reserve team including only one European-based exile — goalkeeper Taffarel, and he was off form.

Most of their squad also turned up at the last moment, tired out from a hectic domestic season and the US Cup '93.

They had difficulty in adapting to the altitude of Cuenca, where they played all their games, and they had not worked out together before their first match.

No wonder they gave an insipid opening performance in a 0-0 draw with Peru. Their second match against Chile was the best in the tournament up to that stage, and they lost 3-2 to a side playing at their best.

It looked like elimination for Brazil, but by their third match the players were better acquainted and acclimatised and by beating Paraguay 3-0 — a surprise after what they had done before — Brazil moved from bottom to second and into the quarter-finals.

A lot was expected of Chile, the only South American team not at this championship with World Cup qualifying on their minds: a FIFA ban keeps them out.

They played some good soccer, especially against Brazil while they were still waiting for their top striker — Ivan Zamorano (who Pele has called South America's best) — to return from Spain. In this absence Richard Zambrano scored two quick goals.

Ivan made his entry in the last match against Peru, but he was well marked and luck was not always on Chile's side. They lost 1-0 and went out.

Paraguay's coach, Hector Corte, resigned virtually on the plane to Ecuador and Alisio Solalinde became their third coach this year.

After Paraguay's poor warm-up performances veteran Roberto Cabanas was called up at the last moment and named captain — ironically the first coach, Sergio Makarian, resigned when officials would not let him pick Cabanas — and quickly repaid the confidence in him by scoring within six minutes for his team's 1-0 win against Chile.

That and a draw with Peru was enough to qualify them among the two best third-placed teams, but they did not shine.

Peru were given little chance in this group, but under coach Vladimir Popovic they showed a well organised defence and midfield (in which exile Jose del Solar shone) and the tournament's outstanding goalkeeper in Miguel Miranda. Even though they scored only two goals, Peru won the group to cause the biggest surprise.

Basile's boys struggle on

Group C

ARGENTINE coach Alfio Basile had said he would rest his leading players for World Cup qualifying games later.

But he turned up in Ecuador with a squad of first-choice players except for suspended Claudio Caniggia . . . and Diego Maradona, whose form hardly warranted selection.

With such a team he should have had no problems except that they had not played together since February and a number of the players only got together in Ecuador.

Their lack of match practice showed in their first game against Bolivia, much better prepared because a players' strike had stopped domestic football and they had been able to play no fewer than 16 warm-up games in recent months.

Argentina were lucky to win 1-0 and even luckier to draw against Mexico, 1-1. Mexico, with World Cup qualifying behind them, had brought their strongest team to try out against strong opposition, leaving a B team behind to play the earlier rounds of their own zonal tournament, the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

The Mexicans had most of the ball against rivals who marked badly and played perhaps their worst game under Basile.

Perhaps Argentina were even more lucky that Mexico's leading scorer, Luis Garcia, had to return to play for Atletico Madrid that week-end.

In Argentina's third match, against Colombia, the pressure was off as both had by then qualified for the next round. As such it hardly served as a rehearsal for their coming World Cup qualifying games.

Mexico qualified as one of the two best third-placed teams, but it was not easy. They just managed a 0-0 draw with Bolivia in their last game which eliminated the latter after three even games.

Mexico also were unlucky to lose 2-1 to Colombia in the final minute and claimed that the winning goal had been blocked on the line.

Significantly goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea was Argentina's best man in a close group with only five goals in six games — four of them drawn and the other two decided by one-goal margins.

They were unlucky to lose midfielder Dario Franco with a double shin fracture, against Bolivia.

Argentina also conceded the worst goal and scored the best. A free kick was awarded to Mexico near the penalty area and while Argentine players protested — as they so frequently do — Hugo Sanchez passed for unmarked David Patino to score.

In the next game, however, Diego Simeone pushed the ball past the advancing Mexican goalkeeper, but did not protest when he was tripped.

Instead, he did a somersault, got up and shot into the empty net from an oblique angle.

ARGENTINA

1	Sergio GOYCOCHEA	Olimpia (Par)
2	Sergio VAZQUEZ	Univ. Catolica (Chi)
3	Ricardo ALTAMIRANO	River Plate
4	Fabian BASUALDO	River Plate
5	Fernando REDONDO	Tenerife (Spa)
6	Oscar RUGGERI	America (Mex)
7	Ramon MEDINA BELLO	River Plate
8	Dario FRANCO	Zaragoza (Spa)
	Jose BASUALDO	Velez Sarsfield
9	Gabriel BATISTUTA	Fiorentina (Ita)
10	Diego SIMEONE	Sevilla (Spa)
11	Nestor GOROSITO	San Lorenzo
12	Luis ISLAS	Independiente
13	Fernando CACERES	River Plate
14	Nestor CRAVIOTTO	Independiente
15	Jorge BORELLI	Racing Club
16	Claudio GARCIA	Racing Club
17	Gustavo ZAPATA	River Plate
18	Alberto ACOSTA	Boca Juniors
19	Julio ZAMORA	Newell's Old Boys
20	Leo RODRIGUEZ	Atalanta (Ita)
21	Norberto SCOPONI	Newell's Old Boys
22	Alejandro MANCUSO	Boca Juniors

Coach: Alfio Basile.

BOLIVIA

1	Ruben ROJAS	Oriente Petrolero
2	Juan PENA	Blooming
3	Marco SANDY	Bolivar
4	Miguel RIMBA	Bolivar
5	Gustavo QUINTEROS	San Jose
6	Carlos BORJA	Bolivar
7	Johnny VILLARROEL	The Strongest
8	Milton MELGAR	Bolivar
9	Alvaro PENA	Temuco (Chi)
10	Marco ETCHEVERRY	Bolivar
11	Jaime MORENO	Blooming
12	Marcelo TORRICO	The Strongest
13	Modesto SORUCO	Blooming
14	Juan C. RIOS	Ciclon
15	Roberto PEREZ	San Jose
16	Luis CRISTALDO	Oriente Petrolero
17	William RAMALLO	Destroyers
18	Miguel NORO	Destroyers
19	Ivan CASTILLO	Bolivar
20	Ramiro CASTILLO	The Strongest
21	Erwin SANCHEZ	Boavista (Por)
22	Julio BALDIVIESO	Bolivar

Coach: Xavier Askargorta

BRAZIL

1	TAFFAREL	Parma (Ita)
2	CAFU	Sao Paulo
3	ANTONIO CARLOS	Palmeiras
4	VALBER	Sao Paulo
5	CESAR SAMPAIO	Palmeiras
6	ROBERTO CARLOS	Palmeiras
7	EDMUNDO	Palmeiras
8	BOIADEIRO	Cruzeiro
9	MULLER	Sao Paulo
10	PALINHA	Sao Paulo
11	ZINHO	Palmeiras
12	CARLOS	Portuguesa
13	Luiz Carlos WINCK	Gremio
14	HENRIQUE	Corinthians
15	PAULAO	Gremio
16	ZETTI	Sao Paulo
17	LUISINHO	Vasco da Gama
18	MARQUINHOS	Flamengo
19	EDILSON	Palmeiras
20	ALMIR	Santos
21	VIOLA	Corinthians
22	ELIVELTON	Sao Paulo

Coach: Carlos Antonio Parreira

CHILE

1	Patricio TOLEDO	Univ. Catloica
2	Gabriel MENDOZA	Colo Colo
3	Eduardo VILCHES	Colo Colo
4	Javier MARGAS	Colo Colo
5	Miguel RAMIREZ	Colo Colo
6	Jaime PIZARRO	Colo Colo
7	Richard ZAMBRANO	Univ. de Chile
8	Mario LEPE	Univ. Catolica
9	Ivan ZAMORANO	Real Madrid (Spa)
10	Fabian ESTAY	Univ. de Chile
11	Marcelo VEGA	Union Espanola
12	Marcelo RAMIREZ	Colo Colo
13	Fernando CORNEJO	Cobreloa
14	Daniel LOPEZ	Univ. Catolica
15	Luis MUSRRI	Univ. de Chile
16	Nelson PARRAGUEZ	Univ. Catolica
17	Fabian GUEVARA	Univ. de Chile
18	Ricardo GONZALEZ	Union Espanola
19	Marco FIGUEROA	Cobreloa
20	Jose SIERRA	Union Espanola
21	Juan CASTILLO	Union Castillo
22	Rodrigo BARRERA	Univ. Catolica

Coach: Arturo Salah

COLOMBIA

1	Oscar CORDOBA	Once Philips
2	Oscar CORTES	Millonarios
3	Alexis MENDOZA	Atletico Junior
4	Luis HERRERA	Atletico Nacional
5	Hernan GAVIRIA	Atletico Nacional
6	Gabriel GOMEZ	Atletico Nacional
7	Orlando MATURANA	America Cali
8	Alexis GARCIA	Atletico Nacional
9	Victor ARISTIZABAL	Atletico Nacional
10	Carlos VALDERRAMA	Atletico Junior
11	Adolfo VALENCIA	Independiente SF
12	Farid MONDRAGON	Deportivo Cali
13	Victor PACHECO	Atletico Junior
14	Leonel ALVAREZ	America Cali
15	Luis PEREA	Independiente Medellin
16	Harold LOZANO	America Cali
17	Faustino ASPRILLA	Parma (Ita)
18	Diego OSORIO	Atletico Nacional
19	Freddy RINCON	America Cali
20	Wilson PEREZ	America Cali
21	Ricardo PEREZ	Millonarios
22	Jose PAZO	Atletico Junior

Coach: Francisco Maturana.

ECUADOR
1 Jacinto ESPINOZA ..... Delfin
2 Jimmy MONTANERO ..... Barcelona
3 Holger QUINONEZ ..... Dep. Pereira (Col)
4 Byron TENORIO ..... Barcelona
5 Hector CARABALI ..... Barcelona
6 Luis CAPURRO ..... Cerro Porteno (Par)
7 Carlos MUNOZ ..... Barcelona
8 Nixon CARCELEN ..... Deportivo Quito
9 Eduardo HURTADO ..... Colo Colo (Chi)
10 Alex AGUINAGA ..... Necaxa (Mex)
11 Angel FERNANDEZ ..... Emelec
12 Victor MENDOZA ..... Barcelona
13 Maximo TENORIO ..... Emelec
14 Raul AVILES ..... Barcelona
15 Jose GAVICA ..... Barcelona
16 Kleber CHALA ..... El Nacional
17 Eduardo ZAMBRANO ..... LDU Quito
18 Dannes CORONEL ..... Emelec
19 Luis CHERREZ ..... El Nacional
20 Ivan HURTADO ..... Emelec
21 Jose GUERRERO ..... El Nacional
22 Raul NORIEGA ..... Barcelona
Coach: Dusan Draskovic.

MEXICO
1 Jorge CAMPOS ..... UNAM
2 Claudio SUAREZ ..... UNAM
3 Juan RAMIREZ ..... UNAM
4 Ignacio AMBRIZ ..... Necaxa
5 Ramon RAMIREZ ..... Santos
6 Miguel HERRERA ..... Atlante
7 David PATINO ..... UNAM
8 Alberto GARCIA ASPE ..... Necaxa
9 Hugo SANCHEZ ..... America
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11 Luis ALVES ..... Necaxa
12 Alex GARCIA ..... America
13 Miguel ESPANA ..... UNAM
14 Carlos TURRUBIATES ..... Leon
15 Luis FLORES ..... Atlas
16 Juan HERNANDEZ ..... America
17 Benjamin GALINDO ..... Guadalajara
18 Guillermo MUNOZ ..... Monterrey
19 Daniel GUZMAN ..... Atlante
20 Abraham NAVA ..... UNAM
21 Raul GUTIERREZ ..... Atlante
22 Nicholas NAVARRO ..... Necaxa
Coach: Mejia Baron.

PARAGUAY
1 Jose CHILAVERT ..... Velez Sarsfield (Arg)
2 Teofilo BARRIOS ..... Talleres (Arg)
3 Mario RAMIREZ ..... Olimpia
4 Celso AYALA ..... Olimpia
5 Silvio SUAREZ ..... Olimpia
6 Carlos GAMARRA ..... Cerro Porteno
7 Estanislao STRUWAY ..... Cerro Porteno
8 Gustavo SOTELO ..... Cerro Porteno
9 Luis MONZON ..... Olimpia
10 Roberto CABANAS ..... Boca Juniors (Arg)
11 Carlos TORRES ..... Racing Club (Arg)
12 Derlis GOMEZ ..... Sol De America
13 Andres DUARTE ..... Cerro Porteno
14 Juan JARA ..... Olimpia
15 Juan VILLAMAYOR ..... Guarani
16 Vidal SANABRIA ..... Olimpia
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20 Virgilio FERREIRA ..... Cerro Porteno
21 Marcial GARAY ..... Olimpia
22 Celso GUARRERO ..... Libertad
Coach: Alicio Solalinde

PERU
1 Miguel MIRANDA ..... Sporting Cristal
2 Cesar CHARUN ..... Universitario
3 Jorge SOTO ..... Sporting Cristal
4 Juan REYNOSO ..... Universitario
5 Jose SOTO ..... Alianza
6 Percy OLIVARES ..... Sporting Cristal
7 Alvaro BARCO ..... Cobreloa (Chi)
8 Jose CARRANZA ..... Universitario
9 Mario RODRIGUEZ ..... Alianza
10 Juan ZUBZUCK ..... Universitario
11 Pablo ZEGARRA ..... Sporting Cristal
12 Roberto MARTINEZ ..... Universitario
13 Roberto PALACIOS ..... Sporting Cristal
14 Julio RIVERA ..... Sporting Cristal
15 Dario MUCHOTRIGO ..... Alianza
16 Flavio MAESTRI ..... Sporting Cristal
17 Waldir SAENZ ..... Alianza
18 Andres GONZALEZ ..... Universitario
19 Agapito RODRIGUEZ ..... Alianza
20 Jose DEL SOLAR ..... Tenerife (Spa)
21 German CARTY ..... Sport Boys
Coach: Vladimir Popovic

UNITED STATES
1 Tony MEOLA ..... US Soccer
2 Mike LAPPER ..... US Soccer
3 John DOYLE ..... US Soccer
4 Bruce MURRAY ..... US Soccer
5 Cle KOOIMAN ..... US Soccer
7 Peter WOODRING ..... Hamburg (Ger)
8 Dominic KINNEAR ..... US Soccer
9 Tab RAMOS ..... Real Betis (Spa)
10 Peter VERMES ..... Figueras (Spa)
11 Jean HARBOR ..... Tampa Bay Rowdies
12 Jeff AGOOS ..... US Soccer
13 Cobi JONES ..... US Soccer
14 Joe-Max MOORE ..... US Soccer
15 Desmond ARMSTRONG ..... US Soccer
16 Mike SORBER ..... US Soccer
17 Mark CHUNG ..... US Soccer
18 Brad FRIEDEL ..... US Soccer
19 Chris HENDERSON ..... US Soccer
20 Paul CALIGIURI ..... US Soccer
21 Fernando CLAVIJO ..... US Soccer
22 Alexi LALAS ..... US Soccer
Coach: Bora Milutinovic

Group A
June 15 in Quito
ECUADOR 6 (Munoz 21, Noriega 33, Fernandez 58, 81, E. Hurtado 65, Aguinaga 84)
VENEZUELA 1 (Dolgetta 80)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Francisco Lamolina (Arg).
Att: 45,000.
Ecuador: Espinoza, Montanero (I. Hurtado), Noriega, Capurro, Munoz, Carabali, Carcelen, Aguinaga, E. Hurtado, Fernandez, Aviles (Gavica).
Venezuela: Dudamel, C. Garcia*, Echenausi, Mathias, Hernandez, Gonzalez, Dolguetta, Milillo, Rodriguez (Palencia), J. Garcia, (Contreras), Rivas.
** C. Garcia sent off 60 mins.*

June 16 in Ambato
URUGUAY 1 (Ostolaza 51)
UNITED STATES 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Alberto Tejada (Peru).
Att: 22,000.
Uruguay: Siboldi, Sanguinetti, Sanchez, Kanapkis, De los Santos, Ostolaza, Moran (Moas), Saralegui, Pelletti, Da Silva, Paz (O'Neil).
US: Friedel, Caligiuri, Armstrong (Agoos), Clavijo, Kooiman, Lapper, Jones, Lalas, Ramos, Woodring (Murray), Harbor.

June 19 in Quito
ECUADOR 2 (Aviles 9, E. Hurtado 37)
UNITED STATES 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Ivan Guerrero (Chi).
Att: 45,000.
Ecuador: Espinoza, Capurro, Montanero, Carabali, Noriega (Tenerio), Munoz, Carcelen, Fernandez, Aguinaga, E. Hurtado, Aviles (Gavica).
US: Friedel, Kooiman, Doyle, Clavijo, Agoos, Jones, Lalas, Lapper, Murray (Harbor), Ramos, Henderson (Kinnear).

June 19 in Ambato
URUGUAY 2 (Saralegui 23, Kanpakis 80)
VENEZUELA 2 (Dolguetta 10, Rivas 73)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Pablo Pena (Bol).
Uruguay: Siboldi, Sanguinetti, Sanchez, Kanapkis, De los Santos, Ostolaza, Moran (Guerra), Saralegui, Pelletti (Moas), Da Silva, Paz.
Venezuela: Gomez, Filesa, Gonzalez, Echenique, Mathias, Echenausi, Hernandez, Millillo, Palencia (Contreras), Rivas, Dolgetta (Rodriguez).

June 22 in Quito
VENEZUELA 3 (Dolgetta 66, 78, Echenausi 89)
UNITED STATES 3 (Henderson 21, Lalas 37, Kinnear 52)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Alberto Tejadad (Peru).
Att: 45,000.
Venezuela: Gomez, Garcia, Mathias, Hernandez, Echenausi, Gonzalez, Echenique (Milillo), Filosa (Rodriguez), Rivas*, Dolguetta, Palencia.
US: Friedel, Kooiman, Clavijo, Kinnear (Harbor), Doyle, Caligiuri, Vermes, Lalas, Jones (Murray), Henderson, Ramos.
** Rivas sent off 84 mins.*

June 22 in Quito
ECUADOR 2 (Aviles 28, Aguinaga 88)
URUGUAY 1 (Kanapkis 65)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Francisco Lamolina (Arg).
Att: 45,000.
Ecuador: Espinoza, Munez, Noriega, Capurro, Montanero, Carabali, Carcelen, Fernandez, Aguinaga, Aviles (Tenorio), E. Hurtado.
Uruguay: Siboldi, Sanguinetti, Kanapkis, Sanchez, De los Santos, Ostolaza, Moas, Moran, Saralegui, Guerra, Paz.

Final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ECUADOR	3	3	0	0	10	2	6
URUGUAY	3	1	1	1	4	4	3
Venezuela	3	0	2	1	6	11	2
United States	3	0	1	2	3	6	1

Group B
June 18 in Cuenca
PARAGUAY 1 (Cabanas 7)
CHILE 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Jose Torres (Col). **Att:** 25,000.
Paraguay: Chilavert, Barrios, Ayala, Ramirez, Suarez, Struway, Gamarra, Sotelo (V. Sanabria*), Monzon, Gonzalez (O. Torres), Cabanas.
Chile: Toledo, Mendoza, Vilches, M. Ramirez, Margas*, Lepe (M. Vega), Estay, Sierra, Pizarro, Figueroa, Castillo (Barrera).
** Sanabria sent off 90 mins, Margas sent off 82 mins.*

June 18 in Cuenca
BRAZIL 0
PERU 0
Ref: Antonio Brizio (Mex). **Att:** 25,000.
Brazil: Taffarel, Cafu, Antonio Carlos, Valber, Roberto Carlos, Cesar Sampaio, Luisinho (Zinho), Palhinha, Muller, Elivelton, Edmundo (Boiadeiro).
Peru: Miranda, Charun, Reynoso, Soto, Olivares, Carranza, Barco, Zegarra (Palacios), Del Solar, Rivera, Maestri.

June 21 in Cuenca
PARAGUAY 1 (Monzon 38)
PERU 1 (Del Solar 77)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Angel Guebara (Ecu).
Att: 15,000.
Paraguay: Chilavert, Barrios, Ayala, Ramirez, Suarez, Struway, Gamarra, Sotelo, Monzon (Nunez), Gonzalez, Cabanas.
Peru: Miranda, Charrun (B. Gonzalez), Reynoso, Soto, Olivares, Del Solar, Barco, Zegarra (Martinez), Maestri, Rivera.

June 21 in Cuenca
CHILE 3 (Sierra 16, R. Zambrano 52, 59)
BRAZIL 2 (Muller 36, Palinha 55 pen)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** A. Rodas (Ecu). **Att:** 23,000.
Chile: Toledo, Mendoza, Vilches, M. Ramirez, Guevara, Pizarro, Estay (Parraguez), Lepe, Sierra, Figueroa (Zambrano), Barrera.
Brazil: Carlos, Cafu, Roberto Carlos, Antonio Carlos, Valber, Boiadeiro, Palhinha (Elivelton), Zinho, Cesar Sampaio, Muller, Edmundo (Viola).

June 24 in Cuenca
PERU 1 (Del Solar 15 pen)
CHILE 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Jose Torres (Col). **Att:** 25,000.
Peru: Miranda, Charun, Reynoso, Soto, Olivares, Martinez, Barco, Del Solar, Zegarra (Palacios), Maestri (Gonzalez), Rivera.
Chile: Toledo, Mendez, Vilchez, Ramirez, Margas, Pizarro, Lepe (Vega), Estay, Sierra, Zamorano, R. Zambrano.

June 24 in Cuenca
BRAZIL 3 (Palhinha 15, 71, Edmundo 61)
PARAGUAY 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Arturo Brizio (Mex).
Att: 25,000.
Brazil: Zetti, Cafu, Antonio Carlos, Valber, Cesar Sampaio*, Boiadeiro (Luisinho), Palhinha (Edilson), Roberto Carlos, Edmundo, Muller, Zinho.
Paraguay: Chilavert, Duarte, Ramirez, Ayala, Suarez, Gamarra, Struway, Sotelo (Jara), Monzon (Gonzalez), Nunes, Cabanas.
** Cesar Sampaio sent off 87 mins.*

Final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PERU	3	1	2	0	2	1	4
BRAZIL	3	1	1	1	5	3	3
PARAGUAY	3	1	1	1	2	4	3
Chile	3	1	0	2	3	4	2

Group C
June 16 in Machala
COLOMBIA 2 (Valencia 35, Aristizabal 89)
MEXICO 1 (Alves 58).
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Jorge Nieves (Uru). **Att:** 20,000.
Colombia: Cordoba, Herrera, Mendoza, Perea, Osorio, Gomez, Alvarez (Lozano), Rincon, Valderrama, Aristizabal, Valencia.
Mexico: Campos, Gutierrez, Suarez, Perales, Herrera, Ambriz, Garcia Aspe, Ramirez, Flores (Galindo), Sanchez (Alves), Garcia.

June 17 in Guayaquil
ARGENTINA 1 (Batistuta 54)
BOLIVIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Arturo Angeles (US).
Att: 15,000.
Argentina: Goycochea, Craviotto, Ruggeri, Vasquez, Altamirano, Franco (Zapata), Redondo, Rodriguez, Garcia, Batistuta, Acosta.
Bolivia: Rojas, J. Pena, Quinteros, Sandy, Rimba, Borja, Melgar, Castillo, Baldivieso, Morano (A. Pena), Etcheverry.

June 20 in Machala
BOLIVIA 1 (Etcheverry 15)
COLOMBIA 1 (Maturana 19 pen)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Marcio Rezende (Bra).
Att: 12,000.
Bolivia: Rojas, J. Pena, Quinteros, Sandy, Rimba (Soruco), Borja (Cristaldo), Melgar, Castillo, Baldivieso, Moreno, Etcheverry.
Colombia: Cordoba, Herrera, Mendoza, Perea, Perez, Alvarez (Lozano), Gomez, Rincon, Valderrama, Aristizabal, Maturana (Valencia).

June 20 in Guayaquil
ARGENTINA 1 (Ruggeri 28)
MEXICO 1 (D. Patino 14)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Juan Escobar (Par). **Att:** 22,000.
Argentina: Goycochea, Vasquez, Altarmirano, Ruggeri, F. Basualdo, Zapata, Redondo (Gorosito), Simeone, Rodriguez, Garcia (Mancuso), Batistuta.
Mexico: Campos, R. Ramirez, Suarez, J. Ramirez, Herrera, Ambriz, Patino (Hernandez), Garcia, Galindo, Alves, Sanchez.

June 23 in Portoviejo
BOLIVIA 0
MEXICO 0
Ref: Jorge Nieves (Uru). **Att:** 25,000.
Bolivia: Rojas, J. Pena, Sandy, Quinteros, Cristaldo, Borja, Castillo (E. Sanchez), Melgar, Baldivieso, Etcheverry, A. Pena (Moreno).
Mexico: Campos, Herrera, Suarez (Gutierrez), J. Ramirez, R. Ramirez, Flores (Galindo), Ambriz, Garcia Aspe, Patino, Garcia, Sanchez.

June 23 in Guayaquil
ARGENTINA 1 (Simeone 2)
COLOMBIA 1 (Rincon 5)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Marcio Rezende (Bra).
Att: 65,000.
Argentina: Goycochea, F. Basualdo, J. Borelli, Ruggeri, Altamirano, Zapata, Redondo*, Rodriguez (Gorosito), Simeone, Batistuta (Acosta), Medina Bello.
Colombia: Cordoba, Herrera, Mendoza, Perea, Perez, Gomez, Alvarez, Rincon*, Valderrama (Lozano), Aristizabal (Garcia), Valencia.
** Redondo and Rincon sent off 50 mins.*

Final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
COLOMBIA	3	1	2	0	4	3	4
ARGENTINA	3	1	2	0	3	2	4
MEXICO	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Bolivia	3	0	2	1	1	2	2

URUGUAY
1 Roberto SIBOLDI ..... Atlas (Mex)
2 Daniel SANCHEZ ..... Danubio
3 Fernando KANAPKIS . Dep. Mandiyu (Arg)
4 Guillermo SANGUINETTI .. Gimnasia (Arg)
5 Santiago OSTOLAZA ..... Queretaro (Mex)
6 Cecilio DE LOS SANTOS .. America (Mex)
7 Walter PELLETTI ..... Huracan (Arg)
8 Hector MORAN ..... Dep. Mandiyu (Arg)
9 Hugo GUERRA ..... Gimnasia (Arg)
10 Marcelo SARALEGUI ..... Torino (Ita)
11 Adrian PAZ ..... Estudiantes (Arg)
12 Oscar FERRO ..... Penarol
13 Hector RODRIGUEZ ..... Defensor
14 Eber MOAS ..... Independiente (Arg)
15 Nelson CABRERA ..... Danubio
16 Alvaro GUTIERREZ ..... Nacional
17 Jorge BARRIOS ..... Wanderers
18 Jorge DA SILVA ..... America Cali (Col)
19 Fabian O'NEIL ..... Nacional
20 Jose HERRERA ..... Cagliari (Ita)
21 Enzo FRANCESCOLI ..... Cagliari (Ita)
22 Ruben SOSA ..... Internazionale (Ita)
Coach: Luis Cubillas

VENEZUELA
1 Jose GOMEZ ..... Mineros Guayana
2 Carlos GARCIA ..... Tachira
3 Miguel ENCHENAUSI ..... Caracas FC
4 Marcos MATHIAS ..... Trujillanos
5 Sergio HERNANDEZ ..... Tachira
6 Leonardo LUPI ..... Trujillanos
7 Leonardo GONZALEZ ..... Trujillanos
8 Oswaldo PALENCIA .. Estudiantes Merida
9 Jose DOLGUETTA ..... Tachira
10 Wilson CHACON ..... Tachira
11 Carlos CONTRERAS ..... Tachira
12 Felix GOLINDANO ..... Trujillanos
13 Luis FILOSA ..... Mineros Guayana
14 Miguel CORDERO ..... Portuguesa
15 Ricardo MILILLO ..... Estudiantes Merida
16 Alexander ECHENIQUE ..... Tachira
17 Edson RODRIGUEZ ..... Sport Maritimo
18 Juan GARCIA ..... Minerven
19 Stalin RIVAS ..... Standard Liege (Bel)
20 Juan CASTELLANO ..... Sport Maritimo
22 Rafael DUDAMEL ..... ULA Merida
Coach: Ratomir Dujkovic

Campos double

MEXICAN goalkeeper Jorge Campos, 26, must be the only one in the world who also plays as a forward in top soccer.

He has played in both positions for his club, Universidad Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM) and did so in Mexico's final warm-up game against Paraguay.

He was in goal in the first half, which ended 0-0, and at No. 9 in the second, when he helped to make two goals in a 3-1 victory.

THE KEIR RADNEDGE COMMENTARY

SUMMER OF SCANDALS

THE PROSPECT of Marseille being dethroned as champions of Europe and France and relegated to the Second Division as a result of match-fixing allegations is presently convulsing European football.

One inquiry is being conducted by a combined team of French judicial and sports investigators, and another may be launched by UEFA. But even if they discover evidence of foul deeds in both French League and Champions' Cup, it seems due process could take so long that Marseille may be safe for at least the coming season.

President Bernard Tapie has furiously denied everything. But the sad truth is that Marseille are merely the tip of an iceberg of scandal bearing down on European football. Not only on France: on England, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain and Turkey.

Football, like every other industry and profession, has always contained a whispered undercurrent centred on the corner-cutting exploits of various individuals and organisations.

But the pressure and potential profit levels are now so high that the whispers can no longer be ignored. Nor should they be ignored.

Three challenges must be met if justice is to prevail:

1: Persuading central conspirators to break through the protective, secretive circles of financial self-interest;

2: Ensuring that investigating officials and organisations are themselves not implicated in whatever web of corruption may be the subject of inquiry;

3: Ensuring that justice is done, i.e. that such powerful forces of envy and overblown personal and sporting rivalry do not permit the innocent to be victimised for equally malicious motives.

Unless these three pillars of justice stand, then claim and counter-claim will clog up the civil and soccer courts for years to come. And football will be the loser.

FIFA's insistence that all football matters should be settled within the game's own disciplinary system is not mere arrogance: it is a means of maintaining the stability of the competitive system. You need only look at the chaos in Brazil, where relegated clubs fly to the civil courts for redress, to understand the logic of the statute.

'Marseille case the tip of an iceberg'

Under suspicion . . . Marseille's Jean-Pierre Bernes (below left), Jean-Jacques Eydelie (below), and Italy's Brescia and Milan (below right).

ENGLAND

● FOR YEARS the Engish game has whispered about how transfer transactions are used to hide perks for players and managers. It is not illegal for managers, and even chairmen, to receive a percentage from a transfer fee. In industry that would be considered a normal performance bonus for a senior management figure.

Where the law — i.e. regarding tax — has been flouted is in making hidden payments in cash.

Terry Venables, whatever the pros and cons of his High Court battle to defy chairman Alan Sugar and hold on as chief executive of Tottenham, has — along the way — done the English game an enormous service.

The High Court claim by Sugar that some managers demanded a "bung" (i.e. a cash lump sum) to facilitate a transfer was the first formal, public, privileged, occasion on which such claims saw the light of day.

Once Venables's injunction application had been rejected, the FA were free to order an inquiry into financial malpractice in the transfer market. One hopes inquiry chairman Graham Kelly will pursue the issue with vigour.

Nothing, absolutely nothing, is more important for the credibility of the game.

FRANCE

● MARSEILLE could lose their domestic title if police inquiries into match-fixing allegations stand up in court. The match at the centre of judicial and football inquiries is the 1-1 draw between Valenciennes and Marseille on Thursday, May 20.

The match originally had been scheduled for Saturday, May 22. But Marseille, due to face Milan in the all-important Champions' Cup Final the following Wednesday, had the match brought forward two days.

Valenciennes players Christophe Robert and Jacques Glassmann claim they were phoned in their hotel room — in the presence of Argentine midfielder Jorge Burruchaga — the day before the match, by Marseille midfielder Jean-Jacques Eydelie. The phone was passed by Eydelie to Marseille general manager Jean-Pierre Bernes. Or, at least, Robert

Talking our way to the future

MUNICH, on the eve of the Champions' Cup Final, provided the opportunity for a football talk-in organised by ESM, the European Sports Magazine group in which *WORLD SOCCER* represents British soccer publishing.

Guests were Sepp Blatter, general secretary of FIFA, Carlos Queiros, manager of Portugal, and Hansi Muller, former West German World Cup Finalist.

Our subject: The Future . . .

SEPP BLATTER is Swiss, viewed as one of the most conservative societies in Europe, but he believes it is essential football moves with the times.

He says: "Football is the most popular game in the world. But if we want to keep it as the premier game into the next century then we must ensure it answers the needs and aspirations of the age in which we live.

"To make sure football is relevant to the first half of the next century we must look at ourselves and our game now. It must be an entertainment but not only for people to watch but for people to play.

Wired for sound . . . Rothlisberger.

"We began this question-and-answer phase after the last World Cup finals, in Italy, when it was clear for all to see that there was something seriously wrong. The World Cup is the pinnacle of football. If something is wrong there, then how much more is going wrong further down the pyramid?

"At the 1990 World Cup finals there was — let's be honest — cheating by some players and by some coaches because they refused to try to produce a worthy spectacle.

"We blamed the tactics ordered by the coaches. We can't influence the coaches, but we can influence the referees through the laws of the game.

"So, we have debated matters and changed a few things to try to help referees and linesmen be more effective. It will take time but I'm optimistic about the future because this is the most dynamic game ever invented."

One change has been banning goalkeepers from handling back passes. Another experiment is the kick-in instead of the throw-in. This will be tried at the World Under-17 Cup in Japan and, probably, in the first half of the next Hungarian league season.

Blatter says: "Our game is called foot-ball. It is played with the foot. Do you see players in handball, basketball or volleyball bringing the ball back into play with their feet? No, so why should we, in football, use the hand?"

Blatter's vision even encompasses radio-controlled referees. He says: "We conducted an experiment in two matches in the Blue Star youth tournament in Switzerland in which the FIFA referee, Kurt Rothlisberger, received a one-way link from his linesmen. He could not talk to them but they could talk to him — warning him about incidents behind his back and advising on matters of control.

"He was so impressed that, without our permission (!), he extended the experiment to a Swiss league match between Lugano and Sion. He thought it was a great success.

"We are sure that linesmen should be able to contribute much more to the control and administration of a match — like time-keeping."

CARLOS QUEIROS believes football needs to pay more attention to the psychological and mental approach to the game — both among players and among spectators.

He says: "A lot of the time we can't enjoy the football we watch because it is not so much a game, more of a war. We are in danger of losing the spirit of the game.

"To keep the spirit of fair play, however, depends not only on the players but on the spectators. We need better educated fans. They take their cue so often from the actions of the players. But, of course, they also influence the players with their support which can bring both positive and negative results.

"Of course, the media has a role to play here as well . . . "

HANSI MULLER is most anxious about an increasing number of serious injuries.

He says: "As the pressures on players at the top level increase so, it seems, does the number of serious injuries.

and Glassmann say this is what they understood though neither had had previous dealings with Bernes and they were unable to identify his voice.

It was agreed that Robert would be paid 250,000 francs (£30,000) for Valenciennes to take it easy. Robert says that his wife, Marie-Christine, collected the money from Eydelie in the car park at the Marseille team hotel. Police, after arresting Robert, later found 250,000 francs in cash buried in his mother-in-law's back garden.

Robert and his wife were both arrested and cautioned on corruption charges. Eydelie, later surrendered himself to police and was charged. A warrant was issued, summoning Bernes to appear before an investigating judge but, before it could be served, he was admitted to hospital suffering from a nervous breakdown.

Tapie denies all accusations. He says: "There is not a shred of evidence. This is like a lynch mob. It's sickening."

He said it would be almost impossible for the club to hide a 250,000 francs payment out of the accounts, and questioned whether the campaign was not a deliberate attack on his business and political careers.

As for the match, Marseille won 1-0. That result virtually sealed the league title for them and helped condemn Valenciennes to the bottom-of-the-table play-offs through which they were releg-ated after losing a two-leg decider against Cannes.

Now Valenciennes are pressing for a speedy process so they can reclaim their position in the top division.

Marseille also are in trouble on a European front. Gennadi Kostylev, coach to CSKA Moscow, says his players were offered cash to ease up against Marseille in the Champions League last season. The teams drew 1-1 in Berlin, and then Marseille won 6-0 at home.

Rene Eberle, the UEFA disciplinary chief says: "As far as the final is concerned, there are three possibilities if the allegations are proved: the match could be declared void and the title not awarded; it could be replayed between Miland and the runners-up in Marseille's group, Rangers; it could be awarded by default to Milan."

GERMANY

● SCANDAL here is more overtly political than financial.

For years the Bundesliga has been held up as an example of probity and good sense for its financial controls. Each spring clubs' accounts are audited and clubs in serious financial difficulty are warned they will lose their professional licence — i.e. be put out of business — at the end of the season unless their budgets are straightened out and debts reduced.

Almost always that produces the desired result. However the system has been cast into disrepute by political panic.

With hindsight it is clear that not enough thought and care was given to the bringing aboard of East German clubs after reunification. Last year Hansa Rostock were releg-ated. This season only Dynamo Dresden remained in the First Division amid financial and administrative chaos.

No doubt, this spring Dresden should have been expelled from the professional ranks. However, such was the political pressure to maintain a professional presence in the old East Germany that the rulebook was disregarded. Dresden survive in the First Division but are penalised four points next season.

Bochum, who consider they were relegated in Dresden's stead, were furious and threatened legal action. In the meantime, the licensing system has been revealed as wide open to such manipulation that it no longer retains credibility. New controls must be devised.

ITALY

● FOR YEARS Italian football has been considered among the most vulnerable in the world.

No fewer than six club presidents have had to quit through implication in the tangentopoli scandal and that was corruption in business, not football. Moreover, the history of Serie A is littered with teams relegated through heavy penalties imposed for match-fixing.

Now Perugia are under investigation amid allegations that they tried to buy their way out of the Third Division. Riots in the town centre followed news of the threat to the club — though the real threat may clearly be revealed as from within.

And it's not only the lower divisions. "Arranged" matches have long been part and parcel of the end-of-season run-in. English viewers of *Channel 4's* Italian league coverage will not have entertained any doubt about that after watching Milan's 1-1 draw with Brescia.

POLAND

● THE excitement and drama of the championship chase this past season has been undermined by events on the last day.

Legia Warsaw, away to mid-table Wisla Krakow, and LKS Lodz, home to Olimpia Poznan, were level on points. Goal difference was the decisive factor. Legia began with their noses in front; LKS knew they had to win by at least three more goals than Legia to take the title.

Legia, producing their best result of the season, won by a remarkable 6-0. LKS also pulled their own rabbit of a hat in defeating Olimpia 7-1 . . . which was not, of course, good enough.

The following day the PZPN, the Polish Federation, fined all four clubs 500million zlotys (£18,000) because "the teams' behaviour provoked justified reservations among supporters and media."

The federation decided that, in future, teams level on points should play off for the title. It also decided that no further action should be taken and that the results would stand.

That meagre package provoked as much public and media derision as the original results. The newspaper *Zycie Warszawy* commented: "By imposing fines the federation acknowledged the clubs were guilty of corruption. The clubs should have been relegated and compliant officials and players suspended for life. The federation had an opportunity to restore the health of a sick game but responded with only a sticking plaster."

SPAIN

● SPAIN'S most widely publicised problem is that of "third party bonuses". Thus it is not illegal for an outsider to offer, and pay, extra bonuses to a team for winning a match. It's a form of corruption through the front door.

Last year's title decider, in which Tenerife beat Real Madrid 3-2, was surrounded by admissions from Tenerife players that they had been offered big third party bonuses. Madrid media sources immediately pointed the finger at Barcelona but no proof was ever offered.

Later Luis Milla, Real's former Barcelona midfielder, said he received a phone call before the match from one of the Barsa players offering him "a cash sum" to play badly.

The federation, instead of trying to investigate the root allegation, contented itself with fining Milla.

In Spain, it seems, airing dirty linen is considered more serious than any offence itself.

TURKEY

● ANOTHER last-day scandal. Besiktas and Galatasaray came to the end of the season level on points. Again, goal difference would prove decisive. Besiktas were home to mid-table Genclerbirligi; Galatasaray, with a narrow two-goal advantage, were away to mid-table Ankaragucu.

Besiktas won 3-1 but Galatasaray "made sure" by winning 8-0. A newspaper later claimed that Yugoslav goalkeeper Rade Zalad had been paid $40,000 . . . and neighbours said they thought he had left the country.

And we do not have so many superstars that we can afford to be without Van Basten for six months, Gascoigne for a year, etc.

"Recently I heard Otto Rehhagel, Werder Bremen's coach saying we should ban the sliding tackle. I remember that as a player he relied a great deal on the sliding tackle, so perhaps it was a significant factor in helping him get where he is!

"But, seriously, I think that he is right. I know from my own personal experience of the dangers of being caught by a sliding tackle. It can ruin a player's knee or ankle for his entire life.

"I don't believe this is what football is about. A fair tackle is an important part of this game — it is a bodily contact sport. But a sliding tackle is not a fair tackle because, almost inevitably, the defender will bring down the player with the ball and this must be outside the laws of the game.

"Look at the punishment Van Basten's ankles have taken. Will he ever be the same player again?"

Masters of the universe?

CHARITY cash awards offered by Eurocard-MasterCard in recognition of outstanding achievements out on the pitch have been a regular feature of recent international championships.

The World Cup sponsors are at it again in the current series. Media representatives in 25 European nations have selected the four players most influential in each country's qualifying campaign. Later the contenders will be whittled down to two per country, then one. These will be designated Masters of the World Cup and their names revealed on the eve of the draw for the finals, which takes place in Las Vegas on December 19.

The first round contenders are as follows:

Austria: Wohlfahrt, Pecl, Stoger, Herzog.
Belgium: Preud'homme, Grun, Van der Elst, Scifo.
Bulgaria: Stoichkov, Balakov, Kostadinov, Mikhailov.
Czechoslovakia: Moravcik, Nemec, Dubovsky, Kuka.
Denmark: Schmeichel, Rieper, B. Laudrup, Povlsen.
England: Adams, Palmer, Platt, Gascoigne.
France: Blanc, Papin, Cantona, Martins.
Germany: Hassler, Matthaus, Klinsmann, Kopke.
Greece: Apostolakis, Manolas, Tsaluhidis, Nioplias.
Holland: Rijkaard, Bergkamp, R. Koeman, Jonk.
Hungary: Petry, Lorincz, Detari, Kiprich.
Italy: Baresi, Signori, R. Baggio, Maldini.
N Ireland: Dowie, Clarke, Black, Wright.
Norway: Thorstvedt, Bratseth, Rekdal, Flo.
Poland: Szewczyk, Lesniak, Kosecki, Ziober.
Portugal: Vitor Baia, Fernando Couto, Semedo, Futre.
Rep Ireland: Irwin, Moran, Townsend, Keane.
Romania: G. Popescu, Hagi, Sabau, Lacatus.
Russia: Shalimov, Dobrovolski, Kiriakov, Yuran.
Scotland: Goram, Boyd, McCall, McCoist.
Spain: Zubizarreta, Ferrer, Hierro, Salinas.
Sweden: Thern, Schwarz, Dahlin, Brolin.
Switzerland: Geiger, Sforza, A. Sutter, Chapuisat.
Turkey: Hakan, Orhan, Tugay, Bulent.
Wales: Southall, Giggs, Rush, Saunders.

Moore and Willson

ON Monday June 28 a memorial service was held for Bobby Moore at Westminster Abbey; on Wednesday June 30 Ken Willson's funeral took place in Harrow.

Moore was captain of England's World Cup-winning team; Willson was sports production editor of *The Daily Mail*.

Moore, 51, enjoyed public adulation; Willson, 57, earned professional acclaim. Suffice it to say, he was the Bobby Moore of sports journalism.

Out of juice

Milan limp to the title

IN THE END, it was not quite the triumphant seasonal climax we had all expected.

In winning their 13th Italian title, Milan looked for all the world like a Formula One car that had unexpectedly run out of petrol on the last lap of a Grand Prix it had dominated from start to finish.

Milan were the best team, all right, but would they make it across the finishing line ?

The whole world saw for themselves just how weary the Italian champions were when they were run out of the Champions' Cup final by Marseille.

In the end, and fortunately for Milan, city rivals Internazionale could not maintain the pressure of a great late-season run, dropping the four points by which they lost the title in three of their last four games.

Nonetheless, on the day that Milan finally wrapped up the championship with a 1-1 home draw to Brescia, there was little sign of celebration.

Not only were Milan still contemplating that Marseille defeat but the entire camp were only too aware that much of the gloss had been taken off their brilliant season by an alarming loss of form in which they won only once in 11 league games from early March.

Celebration was muted, too, because of a very real sense that Milan had come to a definite turning point.

The end-of-season departures of Dutchmen Frank Rijkaard and Ruud Gullit have at one stroke deprived Milan of both their most useful and their most famous player, while bringing the curtain down on the all-Dutch era of Milan grandeur.

Add to that, the consideration that as we write, the third Milan Dutchman, Marco Van Basten, is off on his honeymoon, getting around on crutches and wondering if his right ankle has prematurely ended his brilliant career.

All in all, one understands why Milan's victory celebrations were quiet. In the end, coach Fabio Capello had to remind his side of their achievements, saying: "We've been under attack in the last few weeks of the season for an understandable loss of form based, more than anything, on a series of injuries.

"However, it is not right that this period of poor form should wipe out all the rest, our great run.

"It's as if our 11-point league advantage were a mere trifle, as if our ten consecutive Champions' Cup wins were just a stroll.

"We've been all-dominant in Italy and Europe, except for one 90-minute period for which there are mitigating circumstances."

And, there's the rub. That "one 90-minute period" was precisely Milan's most important game of the season — the Champions' Cup Final.

So, given the sense of disappointment, it is perhaps worth bearing in mind the words of president Silvio Berlusconi: "There will be changes all right because you simply cannot ignore the passing of the years. We want to remain competitive on all fronts."

The others have been warned.

Milan will be back in business again next season, attempting to remain simultaneously competitive on Champions' Cup, Italian Cup and Italian League fronts.

For the time being, the club indicate that they are well pleased with a four-strong foreign legion comprising the Montenegrin Dejan Savicevic, Frenchman Jean-Pierre Papin, Croat Zvonimir Boban and Brazilian Elber (back from a loan period with Grasshopper Zurich), while Van Basten is expected to return in November.

Furthermore, the club have signed Genoa defender Cristian Panucci and Cagliari goalkeeper Mario Ielpo while recalling loan players such as Angelo Carbone from Napoli and Christian Verga from Venice.

Milan excepted, however, it could be that the combined effects of recession and political scandals in Italy may encourage a policy of relative "austerity" amongst the traditional big spenders this summer.

Even Milan have opted out of deals to buy Napoli's Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca (alleged asking price of $25 million and upwards) and Udinese's Argentine Abel Balbo (scorer of a remarkable 21 goals for a side who ended up in a play-off to avoid relegation).

Incidentally, Fiorentina, Brescia, Pescara and Ancona were the sides to go down, while next season Cremonese, Lecce, Piacenza and Reggiana will play in the Serie A.

According to Capello, Inter are the club to have pulled off the biggest transfer coup for the 1993-94 season with their twin signing of Dutchmen Dennis Bergkamp and Wim Jonk (for $9.5 and $6 million dollars respectively) last February.

Just to add spice to his observation, Capello suggests that Inter and not Milan will start favourites for next season's championship.

Inter certainly proved themselves a handy second best, but if Capello thinks anyone is going to believe him, then his name is Frank Chapel.

Inter did, of course, win themselves the useful consolation prize of a place in next season's UEFA Cup, where they will be joined by holders Juventus, by rising stars Lazio and by surprise packet Cagliari, who had not experienced such glory days since the 1970 season, when a certain Gigi Riva inspired them to a title win.

As is the Italian way of things, Cagliari coach Carlo Mazzone immediately celebrated by leaving the club to take over from the Serb Vujadin Boskov at debt-ridden AS Roma, under the new ownership of Pietro Mezzaroma and Franco Sensi.

The sixth and seventh Italian representatives in European competition next season will be Parma, the holders, and Torino in the Cup-winners' Cup.

Torino struggled to collect the Italian Cup, losing the second leg of the final 5-2 to an AS Roma side who maintained their season-long mixture of inconsistency and bad luck.

Roma were due a bit of luck, having lost one star player, Argentine Claudio Caniggia, on a cocaine-related 14-month ban and having lost their owner and President Giuseppe Ciarrapico, a man more concerned these days with getting out of prison to answer fraud and corruption charges levelled against him by the "Tangentopoli" bribery investigators in Milan.

However, a needlessly heavy 3-0 loss in the first leg in Turin left them with an impossible task in the second leg. Nonetheless, three penalties from Giuseppe Giannini, a headed goal from Ruggiero Rizzitelli and a brilliant free kick from Serb Sinisa Mihajlovic almost overcame a punch-drunk Torino, for whom striker Andrea Silenzi saved the day with two vital away goals. Result 5-5, with Torino winning on the away goal ruling.

Rome's other club, Lazio, probably feel that they have much to shout about this season, having played themselves back into Europe.

But even their end of season was spoiled by public wrangling with England national manager Graham Taylor about Lazio midfielder Paul Gascoigne.

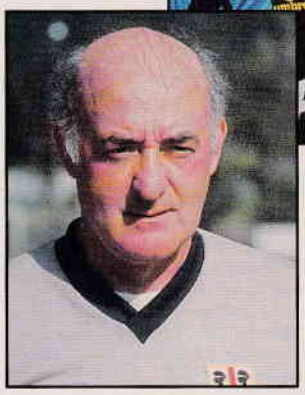
Taylor appeared to suggest that Gascoigne was not behaving in a professional manner, in relation to his consumption of alcohol, and that Lazio should take better care of him.

Lazio coach Dino Zoff denied the accusation, saying that Gascoigne's indifferent season was due to the length of time required to recover from his serious injury.

Next season will tell whether Zoff or Taylor is right.

For Gascoigne, there can be no more excuses, as of August 29 when the new season kicks off.

PADDY AGNEW



On the move . . . Wim Jonk and Dennis Bergkamp (above) have joined Inter, while Carlo Mazzone (left) has joined AS Roma.

End of a Fiorentina era

FIORENTINA are one of only three clubs to have played in every post-war Serie A championship, so their relegation for the first time since 1938 ranks as probably the worst humiliation they have ever known.

During the summer of 1992, a side came together at a cost of £20 million, with dreams of qualifying for Europe. But the sacking of coach Luigi Radice and the arrival of TV pundit Aldo Agroppi (above right) as his successor soon threw them from UEFA Cup contention into the relegation zone.

Not even the last-gasp switch to youth coach "Crazy Horse" Chiarugi in partnership with that symbol of Fiorentina, Giancarlo Antognoni, was enough to save the club.

"Our lack of popularity counted against us," says the president, millionaire film-producer Mario Cecchi Gori.

Indeed, the results on the final day of the season seemed contrived to produce as much suffering as possible for the Fiorentina supporters.

With little over ten minutes left, Fiorentina's six-goal rout of Foggia appeared enough to keep them in Serie A, but late equalisers from Genoa (home to Milan) and Udinese (at Roma) made the difference.

"The Roma fans were even stupidly supporting Udinese," said a disconsolate Cecchi Gori.

With accusations flying about, and even rumours of an official inquiry into the Roma v Udinese match, one of the most honest declarations about Fiorentina's situation came from Antognoni.

"The truth is that we've all been relegated," he said.

"A whole city has finished in Serie B and we feel confused and beaten. Everyone has blamed Vittorio Cecchi Gori (vice-president and son of Mario) but we should all share the responsibility."

The reaction was predictable. Many fans ran riot outside the ground, setting light to rubbish bins and vandalising cars. Meanwhile, the players were coming to terms with their situation.

"Our biggest mistake was to think that we were too good to go down," said ex-captain Stefano Carobbi.

"How can a side who scored 53 goals finish up in Serie B?" asked a furious Francesco Baiano, now almost certain to leave for Milan or Lazio.

The clearest judgement of Fiorentina's position was that of ex-coach Radice, now with Cagliari.

"It's impossible to say what would have happened if I had stayed," he said, but then added some barbed words to explain why other clubs had appeared to collaborate: "It's a question of class, if you don't show respect for others, it's very difficult for others to respect you."

The future looks uncertain for Fiorentina, who will have to shed one of their foreigners to meet with the restrictions of Serie B. Stefan Effenberg is the most likely, having come under heavy fire from the fans.

"He was a champion at giving interviews," said Giancarlo Nencioni, head of the recognised fans group.

Fabrizio Di Mauro also appears likely to leave, in the hope of keeping his place in the national squad, but others have pledged their loyalty.

"I'll stay with the club even if they get relegated to Serie C," said Gabriel Batistuta before leaving for the Copa America.

Even the Mayor of Florence, Giorgio Morales, has been drawn into commenting on the crisis: "The Cecchi Goris must stay because they have a moral obligation to take the club back into Serie A."

Luciano Moggi's arrival as general manager has brought ex-national coach Azeglio Vicini closer to the club. Initially Foggia's Zdenek Zeman was approached, but he turned down the move.

"Everyone is free to make a choice," said Vicini, "but for me there would be no problems. Fiorentina are still Fiorentina, even in Serie B."

If he does take over, however, he will surely expect more than 14 matches to turn the club's fortunes around — unless the Cecchi Gori family have learned nothing from this disastrous season.

GIANCARLO **RINALDI**

RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 30

WEEKEND

GENOA 2 (A. Fortunato 46, Ruotolo 78)
ATALANTA 1 (Ganz 83). Att: 18,000.

FOGGIA 1 (Mandelli 48)
CAGLIARI 1 (Francescoli 65). Att: 18,000.

LAZIO 4 (Riedle 1, 4, Signori 42 pen, Winter 50)
NAPOLI 3 (Zola 10, 61 pen, Francini 47). Att: 55,000.

MILAN 1 (Albertini 82)
BRESCIA 1 (Brunetti 84). Att: 82,000.

PARMA 2 (Melli 15, Cuoghi 81)
INTER 0. Att: 26,800.

PESCARA 5 (Allegri 35 pen, 59, Borgonovo 49, Martorella 86, Palladini 87)
JUVENTUS 1 (Ravanelli 2). Att: 15,000.

SAMPDORIA 2 (Invernizzi 43, R. Mancini 89 pen)
ROMA 2 (Giannini 75, Rizzitelli 77). Att: 30,000.

TORINO 1 (Aguilera 18)
FIORENTINA 1 (Batistuta 89). Att: 25,000.

UDINESE 2 (Kozminski 36, Calori 64)
ANCONA 0. Att: 20,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 6

WEEKEND

ATALANTA 2 (Ganz 47, 66 pen)
ANCONA 0. Att: 8,000.

BRESCIA 3 (Negro 12, Domini 49, Raducioiu 87 pen)
SAMPDORIA 1 (Lombardo 36). Att: 10,900.

CAGLIARI 4 (Bisoli 1, Oliveira 5, Moriero 42, Francescoli 84)
PESCARA 0. Att: 22,000.

FIORENTINA 6 (Batistuta 8, 30, Baiano 26, 43, M. Orlando 70, Vascotto 79)
FOGGIA 2 (Di Biagio 80, Di Bari 84). Att: 34,000.

GENOA 2 (Caricola 14, A. Fortunato 80)
MILAN 2 (Simone 59, Papin 63). Att: 28,000.

INTER 3 (Sosa 49, 61, Shalimov 55)
TORINO 0. Att: 28,000.

JUVENTUS 4 (R. Baggio 10 pen, 31 pen, Vialli 15, Di Canio 73)
LAZIO 1 (Fuser 2). Att: 30,000.

NAPOLI 1 (Policano 22)
PARMA 1 (Pizzi 87). Att: 36,000.

AS ROMA 1 (Hässler 48 pen)
UDINESE 1 (Desideri 80). Att: 41,000.

SERIE A — Final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	34	18	14	2	65	32	50
Inter	34	17	12	5	59	36	46
Parma	34	16	9	9	47	34	41
Juventus	34	15	9	10	59	47	39
Lazio	34	13	12	9	65	51	38
Cagliari	34	14	9	11	45	33	37
Sampdoria	34	12	12	10	50	48	36
Atalanta	34	14	8	12	42	44	36
Torino	34	9	17	8	38	39	35
Roma	34	8	17	9	42	39	33
Napoli	34	10	12	12	49	50	32
Foggia	34	10	12	12	38	53	32
Genoa	34	7	17	10	41	55	31
Fiorentina	34	8	14	12	53	56	30
Udinese	34	10	10	14	42	48	30
Brescia	34	9	12	13	36	44	30
Ancona	34	6	7	21	40	73	19
Pescara	34	6	5	23	45	74	17

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 13

WEEKEND

CUP — FINAL, 1ST LEG

TORINO 3 (Benedetti 17, Cois 53, Fortunato 83)
AS ROMA 0. Att: 43,732.

RELEGATION PLAY-OFF

UDINESE 3 (Balbo 15, Orlando 61, Dell'Anno 89)
BRESCIA 1 (Domini 28). Att: 11,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 20

CUP — FINAL, 2ND LEG

AS ROMA 5 (Giannini 21 pen, 48 pen, 54 pen, Rizzitelli 46, Mihajlovic 64)
TORINO 2 (Silenzi 45, 51). Att: 63,640.
Agg: 5-5, *Torino won on away goals.*

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **Signori** (Lazio) 26
2 ..... **R. Baggio** (Juventus) 21
Balbo (Udinese) 21
4 ..... **Sosa** (Inter) 20
5 ..... **Batistuta** (Fiorentina) 16
Fonseca (Napoli) 16
7 ..... **R. Mancini** (Sampdoria) 15
8 ..... **Ganz** (Atalanta) 14
9 ..... **Raducioiu** (Brescia) 13
Papin (Milan) 13
Van Basten (Milan) 13

Baggio II

Kid Edy is following his big brother

AS SOON as Edy Baggio landed in America with Fiorentina's youth team, to compete in the Dallas Cup, he found himself at the centre of attention. With a name like Baggio it's difficult to go unnoticed!

Edy's brother, Roberto, star of Juventus and the national team is already being hailed as one of the likely stars of the 1994 World Cup in the US.

"Little Baggio" seems likely to continue the family tradition, even in a different role. While Roberto is considered a great playmaker in the Platini mould, as well as a scorer, Edy prefers to hunt the penalty box in the Lineker style.

"Yes, this is my position," he admits. "I'm a goal snatcher. I've no fear of physical contact with my markers, even if sometimes I find they give me too much attention!"

Strangely enough, little Baggio is not inspired by his brother but by an Argentine striker who has had a successful season with Udinese.

"I'd like to be like Abel Balbo. I admire his opportunism and his power."

Despite this "betrayal", Edy is fond of Roberto.

"He's my adviser," he says. "When things aren't going well, he encourages me, telling me not to give up, because hard work always pays. But being the brother of a player like Roberto isn't always easy."

Dallas Cup XIII was an unforgettable experience for him.

"This is a very prestigious tournament, and reminds me of Viareggio. When Fiorentina won the Viareggio Cup in 1992, I was always on the bench, but in Dallas I played regularly and found the experience invaluable.

"More European teams should get involved in the Dallas Cup. Soccer in America is getting more popular and the standards are improving."

On the youth level, Baggio Jr is one of the new emerging talents of Italian football. He's the product of a home nursery that seems a little dried up these days.

"If standards have fallen, it's also the fault of the foreign players who take away space from our youngsters," he says. "Are we sure that an unlimited number of foreign players would be a good thing for Italian football?"

Talking about foreigners, the conversation slides into a discussion about English football. "I really like it — teams play in a way that suits me. If I could choose to play for any English team it would be Manchester United."

One of the most dangerous opponents at the Dallas Cup for Fiorentina were 1992 Cup-holders West Ham.

"They were a very good team, not unlike my Fiorentina. Not in the way they play, but in their management style. Having a team with an average age less than other teams means that they have a stable side on which to build."

Edy has a dream: to play alongside his brother, not in a big team, as one would image, but for Vicenza, the club in Roberto's city of birth, and for whom he started his career.

"You can't control your heart, and I am very tied to Vicenza. At the moment they are playing in the Third Division, but 15 years ago they played in Serie A, and finished second to Juventus.

"This was an incredible achievement for a team from the provinces."

Vicenza had a lot of good players including their star, Paolo Rossi, whose fame was born 15 years ago at the World Cup in Argentina. Will Edy repeat history?

CARLO **REPETTO**

The boy who upset Sacchi settles down at last

A rebel reformed

LAZIO and Italy midfielder Diego Fuser is the reformed rebel of Serie A.

"Three or four years ago I had no respect for authority," he says. "I made a point of doing my own thing on the pitch and ignored my coach's instructions. I must have been one of the most indisciplined players in Italy.

"Today, my attitude is completely different. I am more mature and professional and my game has improved considerably.

"It's a little strange that I am a member of Arrigo Sacchi's Italian national team. He was my manager at Milan during the 1989-90 season and we clashed frequently. I drove him crazy when I failed to follow his orders.

"Fortunately, our relationship is much better these days. Sacchi was impressed by my performances with Lazio and called me up for our World Cup tie in Portugal last February. He told me our past differences were forgotten, and went out of his way to help me settle in the squad.

"For my part, I have tried to prove that I am a true team player and not the individualistic youngster Sacchi used to know. In my international appearances I hope I have shown that I have developed into an unselfish footballer."

Certainly Sacchi had every reason to call a truce. Fuser was in outstanding form, considered by many to be a candidate for the Player of the Year.

His dashes along the right and precise crosses were a vital supply line for Beppe Signori. And Fuser produced a number of goals of his own, too.

He was at his most incisive in Lazio's 5-2 home victory over Parma in October 1992. He dribbled past four defenders before curling the ball home with the outside of his right boot, then struck a 25-yard drive past Claudio Taffarel.

Diego Fuser was born in Venaria, a Piedmontese town north of Turin, on November 11, 1968, and joined Torino at 11. "I was very lucky to be taken on," he says. "The club have the best soccer school in Italy.

"One of my most enjoyable moments there was when we won the Viareggio youth tournament in 1987. Our team included current Torino pros Giorgio Venturin and Gianluca Sordo, Udinese keeper Paolo Di Sarno, and Gigi Lentini, now at Milan.

"At the moment there are three Torino youth products in the Italy squad — Lentini, Dino Baggio and myself. That is a tribute to the dedication and knowledge of the 'Toro' youth coach, Sergio Vatta."

Torino are never afraid to offer first-team opportunities to teenage talent and in April 1987 manager Gigi Radice gave Fuser his Serie A debut in a 1-1 draw with Juventus.

Within a year he had become a permanent fixture for both club and the Italian Under-21 side, and in June 1989 he joined Milan.

Although pundits cast him as the Milanese midfield successor to Carlo Ancelotti, Fuser was unable to convince coach Sacchi, and went to Fiorentina on loan.

After an excellent 1990-91 season for his new club — he scored eight goals in 32 League games — Milan recalled him. But more San Siro frustration awaited him, and he only rarely broke into the closed circle comprising the senior squad.

Fuser was determined to seek regular football elsewhere and last summer Lazio paid a £3 million fee for him.

"I need to play every week," he declares. "I'm the sort who has to feel wanted. During my spells at Milan I was often a reserve and my form suffered.

"With Torino and Fiorentina I was sure of a place in the starting line-up and played better as a result. It's the same situation at Lazio. The coach, Dino Zoff, has faith in me, so I respond with good displays. As far as I am concerned, Lazio and Zoff have saved my career."

NICK **BIDWELL**

PRO-FILE

DIEGO FUSER
LAZIO AND ITALY

Born: November 11, 1968 in Venaria.

Previous clubs: Torino, Milan, Fiorentina *(loan)*.

League debut: April 1987 for Torino v Juventus.

International debut: February 1993 v Portugal.

International caps: 4 (0 goals).

HONOURS

Italian Championship: 1992 *(with Milan)*.
Champions' Cup: 1990 *(with Milan)*.
World Club Cup: 1989 *(with Milan)*.
European Super Cup: 1989 *(with Milan)*.

MALTA Floriana's treble

CHAMPIONS Floriana completed a treble by adding the FA Trophy and the Super Cup to the League title.

Floriana's Crawley, Miller and Wright with the FA Trophy.

Having already knocked out Hamrun Spartans, Valletta and Rabat Ajax, they carried on to thrash a disorientated Sliema side 5-0 in the Trophy final.

Goals by Brian Crawley (2), Jesmond Delia, Mark Miller and Kim Wright brought the trophy to Floriana for the 17th time, equalling Sliema's record.

A week later, rampant Floriana beat Valletta 4-1 to carry off the Super Cup.

Wright will not forget this season. With player-coach Miller and Irish striker Crawley listed as the two foreigners on the field, New Zealander Wright was inactive. But having married a Maltese girl he decided to naturalise himself as a Maltese, making his comeback in the final stages of the season, in the Trophy and Super Cup competitions.

Hamrun Spartans lodged a protest against Wright's eligibility, after Floriana put them out of the Trophy as early as the preliminary round.

A 15th-minute goal by midfielder Kristian Laferla was enough for Malta to get away with a victory in Tallin against Estonia — the country's first-ever World Cup victory.

Coach Pippo Psaila, overjoyed, said: "Today is a very special day for Malta. We have been playing international football since 1957. I dedicate our win to the players, to the Malta Football Association, the sporting public and the Maltese press."

DOMENICO **AQUILINA**

ISRAEL Coach carries the can

SEVEN GAMES, five defeats, two draws and a goal deficit of minus 16 — these are the disturbing statistics facing Israel soccer fans with three games left in World Cup qualifying Group Six.

The fans need look no further than coach Shlomo Scharf as everybody's favourite scapegoat for the debacle — though he is blaming everybody except himself for the 5-0 defeat by Sweden.

The press, however, laid the blame firmly on him, causing untold friction and tension before the game in Finland, where Scharf came out reasonably unscathed after Israel managed a 0-0 draw.

He told reporters after the game in Finland that Israel could finish fourth in the group by defeating Finland and Austria at home — but with the damage seemingly done, rumours are rife that Scharf will be replaced immediately after the World Cup qualifiers.

The Under-21 squad have been equally disappointing. They are bottom of their qualifying group after three straight defeats.

On a happier note, a full meeting of UEFA in Geneva voted Israel into the organisation as a full member, confirming the country's right to continue participating in the European zone of the World Cup and European Championship preliminaries.

But while domestic champions Betar Jerusalem and Cup-winners' Maccabi Haifa will battle it out in Europe next season, Israel will have to wait one more year before clubs participate in the UEFA Cup.

On the domestic front, the close season included a flurry of activity on the transfer market, the most notable switch being made by the League's top scorer, Alon Mizrahi, who has left Bnei Yehuda for Maccabi Haifa for £120,000.

MARK **RIVLIN**

CYPRUS Goals galore for Omonia

OMONIA NICOSIA are back in European soccer after winning the Cyprus League title for the 17th time.

They finished with 59 points, after scoring the remarkable total of 75 goals in 26 matches. Apollon, two points behind, scored nine fewer goals, but that was 14 more than the next-heaviest scorers, defending champions Apoel, who slipped to fourth.

Somewhat surprisingly, Omonia did not have the League's top marksman. Tutic (18) and Xiurruppas (16) were only third and fourth behind Scepovic of Apollon with 25, and Ioannou of Apoel with 22.

Evagoras escaped relegation on goal difference, so Aris — who had finished level with them on 30 points — went down with Apop, who won only one match and drew two. They are replaced by two other "A" clubs, Aradipou and Apep.

Shipwrecked!

Real crash on the island again

JOHAN CRUYFF was "happy but annoyed". Michael Laudrup came out with the time-honoured "it was the same, only different". Team-mate Josep Guardiola promised to join the Tenerife supporters' club. Tenerife defender Julio Llorente suggested that Barcelona should pay his team a pension for life.

Real Madrid were saying very little.

Nobody could quite believe that history had repeated itself and that, for the second consecutive year, Real had surrendered a one-point lead on the last day and handed the title to Barcelona by losing in Tenerife.

In 1992, Real threw away a 2-0 advantage and lost 3-2 while Barcelona were beating Athletic Bilbao with two goals by Hristo Stoichkov.

The 1993 version was a 2-0 defeat for Real in Tenerife, leaving Stoichkov to produce the goods again in the Nou Camp.

His solitary goal beat Real Sociedad, and made a piece of history which Catalan fans are still celebrating.

Barcelona had never managed to string together three consecutive titles in 15 years of league football.

Simultaneously, Stoichkov hit the net with a fierce left-footed shot after good work by Txiki Begiristain, while Argentinian striker Oscar Martycia's bald pate was putting Tenerife ahead.

Another dreadful defensive error allowed Sebastian Truzado, alias Chano, to lead Tenerife's second just before half-time, and it was all over bar an awful lot of shouting.

The outcome, however, could have been very different.

Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano squandered a hat-trick of clear chances before being sent off in the 74th minute for a retaliatory swipe at Cesar Gomez, and the referee, Garcia Redondo, did little to cool tempers on an evening when the temperature topped 90 degrees.

He exasperated Real, particularly in the Tenerife area, and in his book a basketball-style two-handed overhead interception of a header is not a penalty.

As Real's players were leaving the pitch weeping, coach Benito Floro regretted the poor refereeing but admitted that his side had not done enough to win, and had been overrun in midfield during the second half.

In the meantime, Barcelona had to rely on some great goalkeeping by Andoni Zubizarreta to prevent John Toshack's Real Sociedad from taking a point or even both.

Happy . . . Johan Cruyff.

Happy . . . Barcelona players celebrate a third successive title.

Unhappy . . . Benito Floro.

Hence Cruyff's mixed emotions. He was delighted to lift his ninth trophy in five years at the club and proclaim with a broad smile: "I've won more as a trainer than as a player."

On the other hand, he is convinced that his team are five or six points better than anything else in Spain and should not have to depend on Real Madrid's hari-kiri in the Canaries to win the title.

His avowed aim is to present a Bigger, Better Barcelona in the Champions' Cup.

The immediate casualties were Richard Witschge, transferred to Bordeaux after only two unimpressive seasons of a seven-year contract, and club skipper Jose Ramon Alexanko, retiring at 37. He will continue to travel with the team in an administrative capacity.

The signings began with Gijon midfielder Ivan Iglesias and inside-forward Quique Estebaranz, an end-of-contract player from Tenerife, who made his international debut in a 2-0 win over Lithuania in June.

Cruyff also is likely to produce more changes, for Bakero, Beguiristain, Eusebio, Koeman and Laudrup are no longer spring chickens.

Real Madrid's devastating defeat will provoke a reshuffle, too. After a year's work, Floro has produced an enigmatic outfit typified by the lacklustre performance in Tenerife only four days after an impressive display against Barcelona in the semi-final of the Copa del Rey.

Real, held 1-1 in Madrid, were expected to bow out at Nou Camp, especially as Ricardo Rocha's sending-off obliged them to play the last hour with 10 men.

But in the four direct confrontations between the sides this season, Real invariably looked superior.

With Luis Enrique at left-back and Zamorano up front producing colossal performances, they pressurised Barcelona out of their usual possession game and could have had a fuller reward than the Michel penalty and a 70th-minute second goal from Zamorano.

The home team's only consolation was an unstoppable long-range shot by Laudrup two minutes from time. This gave Real a place in the final against Zaragoza, who surprisingly beat Valencia 4-3 on aggregate in the other semi-final.

That persuaded the Valencia fans to give players, manager Guus Hiddink and even president Arturo Tuzon a vocal roasting through the last home game against Oviedo, despite a 3-0 scoreline.

Zaragoza were a thorn amid illustrious sides. Atletico Madrid, Tenerife and Sevilla were all counting on a European place not being lost to a mid-table side.

As it happens, Zaragoza's appearance in the final pre-empted a repeat of bribery allegations which surrounded Tenerife's 3-2 win over Real last year.

This time, the islanders

Happy . . . even more Barcelona players celebrate their title.

had to win to qualify for the UEFA Cup for the first time, and Tenerife president Javier Perez had promised the players a £500,000 share-out if they succeeded. No need therefore, for third parties to provide cash incentives.

With Deportivo La Coruna and Valencia already qualified, Tenerife's win worked the oracle and, if Jorge Valdano can keep his team together, they could do significant damage in the UEFA Cup.

It's a big if . . . with Estebaranz heading for Barcelona and Fernando Redondo negotiating with Real Madrid, two important playmakers could be lost.

Ironically, Tenerife's win also left Atletico — held 2-2 at home by the nuisances from Zaragoza in their last fixture — praying for a Real Madrid Cup win to scrape into Europe.

Real's win duly produced motives for celebrations on both sides of the city. The result allowed Atletico to creep into the UEFA Cup and, with Floro describing victory as "a crucial psychological moment", the Real players splashed gleefully in the fountain at Cibeles to celebrate their first trophy for three years.

Although Urio Velazquez's refereeing came in for criticism in Zaragoza, the result was about right. Real, lacking Martin Vasquez through injury, plus Enrique and Zamorano through suspension, laid no claims to a brilliant performance but soldiered competently through.

Aurelio Gay missed two free headers for a Zaragoza side who fought well in midfield, but Emilio Butragueno destroyed their chances with two moments of genius. Javier Villarroya floated a cross over from the left with his "duff" right foot, Michel side-footed it first-time back across the box and "The Vulture" dived low to score.

He settled matters 13 minutes from the end with a delightful pass that allowed Mikel Lasa to take on goalkeeper Andoni Cedrun and stroke the ball into an empty net.

Unhappy . . . Robert Prosinecki (right) in the defeat at Tenerife.

Three-coach Burgos go down

LIFE at the bottom also had a topsy-turvy outcome.

Burgos, under Theo Vonk, Monchu and ultimately Miguel Sanchez, were relegated along with Cadiz, who this time failed to produce one of their renowned Houdini acts.

Albacete went into the relegation play-offs to face Mallorca, who astonishingly sacked long-time manager Lorenzo Serra Ferrer with one game to play.

The other play-off pitted Racing Santander against Espanol, Barcelona's "other club" who had at one time set their sights on Europe.

Then they took one point from their last 11 games, sacking Jose Manuel Diaz Novon two matches before the undignified end, and lost the play-off, too, to Racing Santander. So Racing go up, Burgos go down and Logrones escaped.

They had an astonishing revival under new Argentine coach Carlos Aimar, and Oleg Salenko, refused a work permit when he attempted to join Tottenham, scored enough crucial goals to have his wages increased from £70 a week to £350.

Logrones are now negotiating with Kiev Dynamo to have the striker's loan converted into a definite transfer.

Catalan club UE Lleida took the Second Division championship in such fine fashion that manager Jose Manuel Esnal has attracted offers from several clubs in the top flight. Valladolid go up, too, in second place.

Lleida's immediate ambition is to avoid a repeat of their previous appearance in the First Division, 43 years ago.

Then Real and Atletico both put seven past them in Madrid; Espanol beat them 8-0; Malaga beat them 9-0; La Coruna edged home 10-1; and in their following away fixture Athletic Bilbao won 10-0.

They accumulated 13 points and 134 goals against during their 30-game life at the top.

GRAHAM TURNER

Farewell Maradona! p.32-33

RESULTS

DIVISION ONE — Final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	38	25	8	5	87	34	58
Real Madrid	38	24	9	5	75	28	57
La Coruna	38	22	10	6	67	33	54
Valencia	38	19	10	9	60	33	48
Tenerife	38	15	14	9	59	47	44
Atletico Madrid	38	17	9	12	46	44	43
Sevilla	38	17	9	12	46	44	43
Athletic Bilbao	38	17	6	15	53	49	40
Real Zaragoza	38	11	13	14	37	52	35
Osasuna	38	12	10	16	41	41	34
Celta	38	9	16	13	25	31	34
Real Sociedad	38	13	8	17	46	59	34
Gijon	38	11	12	15	38	57	34
Rayo Vallecano	38	8	17	13	40	49	33
Logrones	38	11	11	16	32	48	33
Oviedo	38	11	10	17	42	52	32
Albacete	38	11	9	18	54	59	31
Espanol	38	9	11	18	40	56	29
Cadiz	38	4	14	20	29	69	22
Burgos	38	4	14	20	29	69	22

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 30

MIDWEEK

ALBACETE 4 (Antonio 64, Zalazar 72 pen, Dos Santos 76, 78)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 5 (Parri 11 o.g., Valverde 42, 50, Ciganda 55, 60). **Att:** 14,000.

WEEKEND

REAL ZARAGOZA 2 (Higueda 45, Aragon 55)
VALENCIA 1 (Penev 74). **Att:** 15,000.

ESPANOL 0
LA CORUNA 2 (Moj 12 o.g., Bebeto 51). **Att:** 25,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 2 (Ciganda 65, Larrazabal 75)
LOGRONES 0. **Att:** 30,000.

CADIZ 1 (Macedo 40)
ALBACETE 1 (Antonio 50). **Att:** 11,000.

OVIEDO 2 (Carlos 47, 54)
GIJON 1 (Aberaldo 17). **Att:** 19,000.

RAYO VALLECANO 2 (Calderon 63, Rocha 71)
BURGOS 1 (Fenoll 52). **Att:** 8,000.

CELTA 3 (Vicente 6, Ferrer 10 o.g. Salva 80)
BARCELONA 2 (Laudrup 25, Beguiristain 85). **Att:** 30,000.

SEVILLA 1 (Paz 31)
TENERIFE 0. **Att:** 35,000.

OSASUNA 0
REAL MADRID 0. **Att:** 18,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 0
REAL SOCIEDAD 0. **Att:** 13,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 6

WEEKEND

BARCELONA 2 (Laudrup 46, Nadal 48)
SEVILLA 1 (Suker 15). **Att:** 70,000.

LA CORUNA 3 (Ribera 50, Bebeto 72 pen, Djukic 84)
CADIZ 0. **Att:** 22,000.

REAL MADRID 2 (Milla 54, Michel 89)
REAL SOCIEDAD 0. **Att:** 55,000.

TENERIFE 2 (Dertycia 59, Estebaranz 62)
OSASUNA 2 (Urban 72 pen, 80). **Att:** 23,000.

BURGOS 1 (Loren 43)
CELTA 1 (Urzaiz 28). **Att:** 5,000.

SPORTING 1 (Ivan 60)
RAYO VALLECANO 0. **Att:** 13,500.

ALBACETE 2 (Chiesa 23, Zalazar 37)
OVIEDO 0. **Att:** 10,000.

VALENCIA 2 (Sanchez 79, 82)
ESPANOL 0. **Att:** 35,000.

LOGRONES 0
REAL ZARAGOZA 0. **Att:** 8,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Ciganda 76)
ATLETICO MADRID 2 (Garcia 79, 84). **Att:** 30,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 13

MIDWEEK

CUP — SEMI-FINALS, 1ST LEG

REAL MADRID 1 (Zamorano 40)
BARCELONA 1 (Bakero 31). **Att:** 90,000.

VALENCIA 1 (Arroyo 26)
ZARAGOZA 1 (Higuera 59). **Att:** 40,000.

WEEKEND

REAL MADRID 1 (Hierro 52)
ATLETICO MADRID 0. **Att:** 90,000.

OSASUNA 0
BARCELONA 1 (Pepin 58 o.g). **Att:** 23,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 3 (Kodro 2, Oceano 44, 60)
TENERIFE 1 (Dertycia 49). **Att:** 16,000.

SEVILLA 1 (Monchu 34)
BURGOS 1 (Edu 89). **Att:** 29,000.

CELTA 0
GIJON 0. **Att:** 15,000.

RAYO VALLECANO 2 (Riesco 72, Calderon 89)
ALBACETE 2 (Cordero 40, Chesa 76). **Att:** 8,000.

OVIEDO 3 (Carlos 15, 72, Vinyals 60)
LA CORUNA 3 (Goriarran 27 o.g, Beteto 42, 73). **Att:** 17,200.

CADIZ 0
VALENCIA 2 (Arroyo 25, Leonardo 85). **Att:** 3,000.

ESPANOL 0
LOGRONES 1 (Salenko 86). **Att:** 35,000.

ZARAGOZA 0
ATHLETIC BILBAO 3 (Ciganda 4, Guerrero 24, Valverde 59). **Att:** 15,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 20

MIDWEEK

CUP — SEMI-FINALS, 2ND LEG

ZARAGOZA 3 (Gay 29, 50, Higuera 88)
VALENCIA 2 (Fernando 20, Sanchez 89). **Att:** 35,000.
Zaragoza won 4-3 on agg.

BARCELONA 1 (Laudrup 87)
REAL MADRID 2 (Michel 24 pen, Zamorano 82). **Att:** 87,000.
Real Madrid won 3-2 on agg.

WEEKEND

ATHLETIC BILBAO 2 (Valverde 21, Estibariz 31)
ESPANOL 0. **Att:** 20,000.

LOGRONES 1 (Uralde 88)
CADIZ 0. **Att:** 7,000.

VALENCIA 3 (Ibanez 50, Tomas 55, Sanchez 83)
OVIEDO 0. **Att:** 10,000.

LA CORUNA 1 (Nando 4)
RAYO VALLECANO 1 (Cortes 67). **Att:** 2,500.

ALBACETE 1 (Antonio 45)
CELTA 0. **Att:** 7,000.

GIJON 1 (Ivan 81 pen)
SEVILLA 3 (Monchu 20, Conte 59, 72). **Att:** 13,000.

BURGOS 1 (Loren 54)
OSASUNA 0. **Att:** 5,000.

BARCELONA 1 (Stoichkov 10)
REAL SOCIEDAD 0. **Att:** 80,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 2 (Juanito 75, 81)
ZARAGOZA 2 (Lizzaralde 40, Moises 73). **Att:** 7,000.

TENERIFE 2 (Dertycia 5, Chano 43)
REAL MADRID 0. **Att:** 22,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 27

WEEKEND

CUP — FINAL

REAL MADRID 2 (Butragueno 29, Lasa 88)
ZARAGOZA 0. **Att:** 32,000, *in Valencia.*

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **Bebeto** (La Coruna) 30
2 ..... **Zamorano** (Real) 27
3 ..... **Stoichkov** (Barcelona) 20
Penev (Valencia) 20
5 ..... **Luis Garcia** (At. Madrid) 17
6 ..... **Pizzi** (Tenerife) 15
Beguiristain (Barcelona) ... 15

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Werder by a whisker

Winner ... Rehhagel with the Bundesliga trophy.

ANOTHER dramatic finale in the German title race was won against the odds by Werder Bremen, their third championship and the first since 1988.

After a bad start to the season Werder triumphed 3-0 on the last day, away to the dethroned holders, Stuttgart, who had taken the trophy on the last day in 1991-92. Bayern Munich managed only a 3-3 draw at Schalke and were pipped by one point.

It was a bitter disappointment for Bayern, who led the table after the first 32 of the 34 matches, were then overhauled on goal difference, and finally nailed in a photo finish.

Yet everything favoured Bayern on the last day.

They had (on paper) the easier game, a better away record, the more experienced players, and 11 out of 18 Bundesliga team captains tipping them to win the title.

Stunned Bayern lost at least £5 million by not qualifying for the lucrative Champions Cup; the UEFA Cup place is small compensation.

Of course the Bavarians are not paupers.

Their average gates are twice as high as those of Bremen. But Werder can look forward to a bonanza next season, while paying their heroes a title bonus of between £16,000 and £20,000 per man, according to the number of games played.

The euphoria in Bremen was boundless as the team displayed two championship trophies — the original founded in 1903 and discovered in a Berlin vault in 1990, plus the current one.

Veteran defender Uli Borowka summed up the team's feelings about the nerve-racking finale: "We were not worried. All the pressure was on Bayern. They were nervous and afraid.

"We had a marvellous run and would have celebrated even without the title which nobody expected us to win. But that's football."

Bremen's long-serving manager Otto Rehhagel, in charge since 1981, has won four trophies in six years — two in the League, one DFB Cup and one Cup-winners' Cup.

Remarkably Werder have no current German international on their books. Their key men are all representing foreign countries — Andy Herzog is Austrian, Rune Bratseth Norwegian and Wynton Rufer a New Zealander.

There would have been a third contender for the title but incredibly Eintracht Frankfurt made the same blunder as Stuttgart did in the Champions' Cup by fielding a fourth foreign player.

Eintracht beat bottom-placed Bayer Uerdingen by 5-2, but following a terrible head injury to one of their players, the Slovak Marek Penksa was sent on as substitute for three minutes. He was the fourth foreigner, which is against domestic regulations.

Frankfurt's temporary manager, Horst Heese, who spent the last five years abroad, forgot the implications when shuffling his reserves.

The DFB reversed the result of the match, which deprived Frankfurt of the points and counts as a 2-0 win for Uerdingen.

Curiously this was the third time that a German club had broken this particular rule. In 1977, coach Hennes Weisweiler, then with Koln, fielded three foreigners against Frankfurt when only two were then allowed. But Koln lost the match 4-0 and nobody protested.

Koln received a warning, everybody had a good laugh at Weisweiler's expense, and the episode was swept under the carpet.

Now DFB lawyer Gotz Eiler says: "The clubs must realise how serious such a breach of rules could be. If Uerdingen hadn't been relegated already, the other clubs similarly threatened might have objected. The door would have opened to manipulation of results."

A new name was engraved on the 59-year-old DFB Cup, that of Bayer Leverkusen, contesting their first domestic final.

Hertha Berlin were the first amateurs to reach the final and a capacity crowd of 76,000 in Berlin's Olympic stadium rooted for the young local collection of car mechanics, engineers, salesmen, students, bank and tax clerks whose captain Karsten Nied warned: "We knocked out Hanover and Nurnberg, so we are not scared of Leverkusen."

The amateurs fought gallantly and were beaten by only one goal, from international Ulf Kirsten 13 minutes from time. Having shared £60,000 for winning the semi-final they were due to collect another hefty bonus from the final.

ARTHUR **ROTMIL**

TRANSFER TURMOIL

Germans aim to bring all into line

THE German FA's plan to cut the period allowing transfers of players by five months has brought into focus the diversity of rules and deadlines operated throughout Europe.

The most liberal regulations exist in ENGLAND, where transfers can take place virtually all year round.

There is only six-weeks before the end of the season when clubs — but only those involved in the title race, promotion, or relegation — are not permitted to strengthen their ranks.

In many European countries the transfer period usually ends once the season has started, or at the half-way stage.

In GERMANY, players can join new clubs only during the first half of the season, between July and December 31.

Those who sign past that are not eligible to play for a new team until July.

And only players registered on the official transfer list issued by the DFB can move.

But now the chairman of the League Management Committee, Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, also president of Stuttgart, says: "We want to introduce a second transfer period.

"In future no player should be allowed to move between July 1 and December 31, but instead during the subsequent winter break which ends in February.

"The other permitted time limit would remain in force in the summer break."

The new proposals are supported by some officials, rejected by others. Kurt Vossen, football chief of Cup-winners Bayer Leverkusen, points out: "The shortening of the transfer stage will upset the clubs and make many players unhappy."

Former international Rolf Russman, now general manager of Borussia Monchengladbach, opposes the cut: "Clubs who may be forced to engage or discard players will have their options restricted."

Another valid argument is put forward by Gerhard Schwartzkopf, vice-president of FC Saarbrucken: "If the first transfer deadline were to end on July 1, then a newly-promoted club may have to build a new team within a few days."

Several managers claim that the new plan would favour the big clubs, who already employ up to 27 players and are able to interchange without having to buy.

But Mayer-Vorfelder counters: "Experience shows that clubs who lose three or four early matches are pushed into panic buying and often over-spend in their anxiety to get out of trouble.

"The introduction of two transfer periods will ease the pressure on less successful clubs.

"The hiring of new players who claim a first-team place either pushes out promising youngsters, or prevents them from getting promotion.

"It is of course a big difference when a club can buy a new star at any time and immediately use him against a team perhaps struggling at the bottom.

"It is unfair on the smaller clubs if a team having played a number of matches then confront subsequent opposition with a considerably strengthened side."

The DFB will be discussing the proposals shortly. And the influential Mayer-Vorfelder is expected to carry the day.

While it is doubtful whether many countries, if any, would consider copying the English methods of a virtually free market during ten months or more, the German example might be adopted by some federations dissatisfied with the present restrictions.

In ITALY, some people are unhappy with regulations which prohibit player moves after November 10.

The only exceptions to this rule are players out of contract who can be signed until March 30.

The Italian FA general secretary, Dr. Giorgio Zappacosta, is quoted as saying: "A number of clubs are critical of the present limitations.

"They would like to see a unified system of transfer throughout Europe.

"They feel the present rules favour the rich clubs who can afford to buy top players at one stroke during the summer."

In SPAIN, the First Division clubs are basically confined to buying and selling players during the off season. But at least they can hire foreigners and players from lower divisions until four weeks before the championship programme ends.

In FRANCE players can move between May 15 and the first day of the season in August. Then only one player can be signed before December 31 — he is called the joker.

RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 30

WEEKEND

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 3 (Binz 16, Bindewald 65, Yeboah 70) **KAISERSLAUTERN 0**. Att: 23,000.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Melzig 30) **UERDINGEN 1** (Kuhn 4). Att: 18,500.

KOLN 2 (Steinmann 44, Greiner 80) **SCHALKE 1** (Muller 78). Att: 57,000.

BAYERN MUNICH 3 (Scholl 29, Ziege 32, Matthaus 44) **BOCHUM 1** (Wosz 73). Att: 64,000.

WATTENSCHEID 0 KARLSRUHE 2 (Carl 4, 69). Att: 7,000.

BOR. DORTMUND 1 (Grauer 61) **LEVERKUSEN 2** (Kirsten 31, Hapal 77). Att: 42,800.

BORUSSIA MG 2 (Pflipsen 50, Kastenmaier 52) **NURNBERG 1** (Oechler 46). Att: 28,000.

SAARBRUCKEN 1 (Wynalda 86) **STUTTGART 4** (Knup 5, Gaudino 57, 65, Schaefer 63). Att: 25,000.

WERDER BREMEN 5 (Herzog 30, 90, Rufer 36 pen, 87, Kohn 70) **HAMBURG 0**. Att: 38,395.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 6

WEEKEND

HAMBURG 1 (Babbel 74) **EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 2** (Yeboah 27, Schmitt 75). Att: 16,600.

NURNBERG 4 (Eckstein 22, Hintermaier 30, Kostner 45 o.g., Brunner 86) **SAARBRUCKEN 1** (Savitchev 15). Att: 42,540.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 4 (Thom 14, 73, Kirsten 59, Hapal 69) **BORUSSIA MG 0**. Att: 25,000.

KARLSRUHE 3 (Kiriakov 2, Roiff 12, Reich 56) **BORUSSIA DORTMUND 0**. Att: 41,000.

BOCHUM 3 (Wegmann 18, Wosz 45, Aden 53) **WATTENSCHEID 1** (Tschiskale 65). Att: 26,000.

SCHALKE 3 (Anderbruegge 4, Borodjuk 34, 86) **BAYERN MUNICH 3** (Scholl 24, Matthaus 74, Wouters 76). Att: 70,200.

UERDINGEN 0 KOLN 0. Att: 16,000.

KAISERSLAUTERN 2 (Kadlec 45, Schaefer 68) **DYNAMO DRESDEN 0**. Att: 28,000.

STUTTGART 0 WERDER BREMEN 3 (Hobsch 46, 74, Wolter 50). Att: 52,000.

BUNDESLIGA — Final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Werder Bremen	34	19	10	5	63	30	48
Bayner Munich	34	18	11	5	74	45	47
Ein. Frankfurt	34	15	12	7	56	39	42
Bor. Dortmund	34	18	5	11	61	43	41
Leverkusen	34	14	12	8	64	45	40
Karlsruhe	34	14	11	9	60	54	39
VfB Stuttgart	34	12	12	10	56	50	36
Kaiserslautern	34	13	9	12	50	40	35
Borussia Mg	34	13	9	12	59	59	35
Schalke	34	11	12	11	42	43	34
Hamburg	34	8	15	11	42	44	31
Koln	34	12	4	18	41	51	28
Nurnberg	34	10	8	16	30	47	28
Wattenscheid	34	10	8	16	46	67	28
Dyn. Dresden	34	7	13	14	32	49	27
Bochum	34	8	10	16	45	52	26
Uerdingen	34	7	10	17	35	64	24
Saarbrucken	34	5	13	16	37	71	23

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **Yeboah** (Frankfurt) 20
Kirsten (Leverkusen) 20

AUSTRIA

Salzburg slip lets in FK

FK AUSTRIA won the championship for the 22nd time, on goal difference, after Salzburg faltered in the final straight.

Six rounds from the end the Salzburger led by five points. Then they crashed 3-1 at home, where they had been virtually invincible, to their closest rivals.

FK's heroes were Lithuanian strikers Arminas Narbekovas, who scored twice, and Valdas Ivanauskas, who hit the third. Sadly Ivanauskas is leaving to join Hamburg, where he will replace Polish international Jan Furtok, on a two-year contract with the fee around £600,000.

The late goals, one in Vienna and the other in Innsbruck, helped FK Austria to hit the front. Against Wacker Innsbruck they were under the cosh for most of the time, but the hosts, without Danek and Westerthaler, could not score. A quarter of an hour before the end Austria's Manfred Zsak fired the winner.

At the same time Salzburg controlled the match at Rapid, who hardly created a single chance, but three minutes from the end Kuhbauer hit the winner.

FK Austria clinched the title by winning five games on the trot, and finished with a 4-0 derby triumph over Rapid.

Earlier Rapid's players, who had not been paid for over two months, threatened a strike. They refused to train and were persuaded only at the last minute to turn out in the next game by a promise of payment in full.

Having collected the money they suddenly sprang to life and crushed Admira/Wacker by 4-0. Former international Gerd Rodax hit a hat-trick.

Salzburg, who have never been champions, lost out again. Yugoslav-born manager Otto Baric lamented: "If we couldn't win the title when holding such a clear advantage, then we shall never win it."

A UEFA Cup place is small consolation.

SWITZERLAND

Aarau's surprise arrival

MODEST provincial club FC Aarau, from a small town of 16,000 inhabitants, are surprise Swiss champions.

Four seasons on the trot they were fighting in the relegation pool, and last year they saved themselves on the last day.

Now they celebrate their third title — having triumphed way back in 1912 and 1914.

Aarau's ground holds only 13,200 spectators, is the smallest of any in the championship pool, and was not once sold out this term.

The management already have announced that they should draw a "big fish" in Europe they would move the venue to a bigger stadium, probably in Basel.

The team, led by Austrian manager Rolf Fringer, do not include a single Swiss international, while even their four foreigners are not first choices for their country. They are Robert di Matteo (Italian), stopper Mirko Pavlicevic (Croat), midfielder Ryszard Komornicki (Pole) and Petar Alexandrov (Bulgarian).

The players probably earn less than any other at top clubs, and collect on average £4,000 a month before deductions.

Aarau's previous best spell came under the German manager Ottmar Hitzfeld (now with Borussia Dortmund) who led them to a runners-up spot and Cup victory in 1985.

Another outsider, Lugano, won the SFV Cup for the third time, after 1931 and 1968. Before a poor crowd of 21,000, one of the lowest for a final, they beat mighty Grasshopper 4-1.

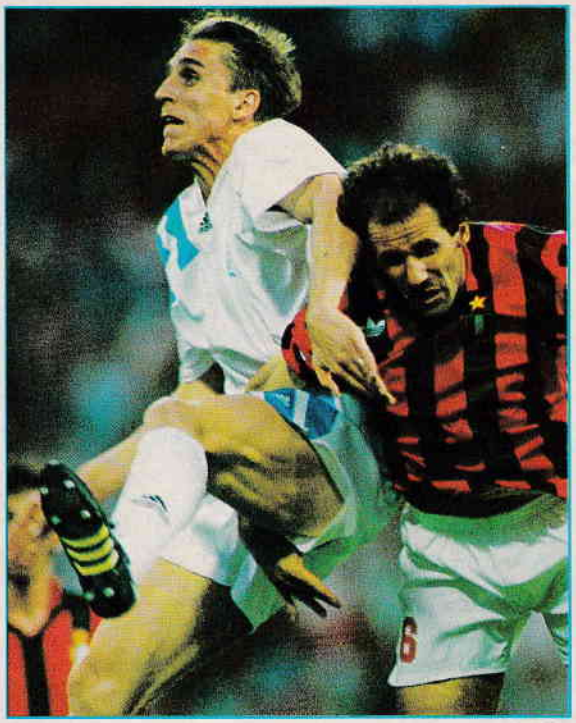
But several top players, incensed over drastic salary cuts, threatened to leave.

At least three are wanted by Basel, while Stuttgart and Zurich are after their brilliant Brazilian libero, Mauro Galvao (above).

ARTHUR **ROTMIL**

A charmed life

MARSEILLE are carrying on business — and high-finance business at that — despite corruption allegations from all directions.



Moving on . . . Alen Boksic (above) is wanted by Juventus while Rudi Voller (below) may be on his way to Japan.

The European champions have been accused of fixing a decisive League match against Valenciennes and of trying to buy off CSKA Moscow in the Champions' League. They might lose their French title, they might even be stripped of the European Cup.

But president Bernard Tapie (above) is undeterred, splashing out at home and abroad but on this occasion only in the transfer market. His prize capture is Portuguese forward Paulo Futre, sold by crisis-hit Benfica only five months after his £4 million return home from Atletico Madrid.

Futre is set to fill the imports gap being left by Abedi Pele who, after being persuaded to sign a new contract with Marseille, may now move to Italy after all.

On the domestic scene Marseille have bought internationals William Prunier and Daniel Dutuel — defender and midfielder respectively — from Auxerre, and midfielder Fabrice Henry from Sochaux.

Those making way for the new wave include veteran full-back Manuel Amoros, who has gone to Lyon, and midfielder Franck Sauzee, off to Italy's Atalanta.

In the meantime, Tapie — who seems to bear a charmed life — has hit back in typically forthright manner against the allegations which have rocked France. He says: "We are a team which excites a lot of jealousy. The fact that we accumulate championship after championship must annoy a lot of people.

"Assuming that there were phone contacts with the players of Valenciennes who accused us, who can prove that it was really our official who did so? There are no formal proofs.

"It was a joke in bad taste, and more particularly a manoeuvre to disturb our serenity and our preparations for the Champions' Cup Final against Milan.

"In previous seasons, when we were just about to win our third and fourth championships, there have been the precedents of Brest, when we were suspected of corrupting their team

Tapie makes the most of his luck

through Cabanas (the Paraguayan international), and Rennes, who had even accused us of trying to poison all their players with a soporific orange juice. The inquiries have proved our good faith."

Tapie went on to accuse that highly-respected journal *France Football*, surely one of the game's very best, of publishing an "invented" interview with his extraordinary veteran Belgian manager, Raymond Goethals.

Not the kind of thing *France Football* are known to do.

As we know, it all came right in the end, thanks to Basile Boli's header. And I suppose Tapie might say with some strange justice that his policy of what you might call creative destruction had worked.

He had largely dismembered last season's team, yet had produced another which Reims and Saint Etienne at their best could not match.

Tapie sold his two Englishmen, Trevor Steven and Chris Waddle, and sold the idol of the fans, Jean-Pierre Papin, to Milan.

And in the European final, irony of stupendous ironies, what should Papin do but go on as sub? He had the bitterness of finishing on the losing side against the club with whom he so nearly won a Euro medal two years earlier. And surely would have done, in Bari, had his aim been truer.

Waddle also missed chances in that game, but last season he was in glorious form, and how sad the fans were when Tapie sold him. It cannot be said that anyone truly replaced him, but to buy the veteran Rudi Voller from Roma proved an inspired move and, Tapie's luck being what it is, Alen Boksic came good until the Euro final, when he was strangely marginal.

Top scorer in the League, a frequent scorer in Europe, but perhaps, as certain French critics suggested, the occasion was too much for him.

Some of the Italian critics had a good old sneer. Was this pale figure, they asked, the man for whom Juventus were supposedly prepared to pay a fortune? But Boksic had already said he was not ready for Italy, and wanted to wait a few seasons.

Voller said he had not won much in his career — he seems a little forgetful — so it was all the sweeter to come good in the final.

He admitted he should have scored early in the game: "I kept the ball too low." Better he should miss, he added, and that Boli should score at the psychological moment that he did.

"At 1-0 we organised well. They had just one real chance which Papin missed. Our secret? A great group, not great individuals."

But can the glorious image survive? Will Marseille be stripped of the French League title? Will Valenciennes, their relegated victims, be reinstated?

Will Marseille lose their European champions crown? Will Milan be declared winners by default or be offerred a "new" final against group runners-up Rangers?

Watch this space.

ANDRE **DUCLOS**

RESULTS

DIVISION ONE — Final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marseille	38	23	9	6	72	36	55
Paris SG	38	20	11	7	61	29	51
Monaco	38	21	9	8	56	29	51
Bordeaux	38	18	12	8	42	25	48
Nantes	38	17	11	10	54	39	45
Auxerre	38	18	7	13	57	44	43
St Etienne	38	13	17	8	34	26	43
Strasbourg	38	12	16	10	58	57	40
Lens	38	12	16	10	36	41	40
Montpellier	38	12	12	14	36	41	36
Caen	38	13	9	16	55	54	35
Metz	38	11	13	14	44	45	35
Toulouse	38	9	16	13	36	45	34
Lyon	38	9	15	14	40	45	33
Le Havre	38	11	11	16	42	53	33
Sochaux	38	11	10	17	33	50	32
Lille	38	7	16	15	26	48	30
Valenciennes	38	9	11	18	42	57	29
Toulon	38	6	13	19	31	57	25
Nimes	38	3	16	19	32	66	22

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 30

WEEKEND

MARSEILLE 3 (Voller 17, Boli 36, Boksic 77)
PARIS SG 1 (Guerin 7). **Att:** 40,000.

MONACO 2 (Djorkaeff 13, 80)
LYON 1 (Garde 36). **Att:** 2,500.

BORDEAUX 2 (Zidane 9, Dugarry 21)
METZ 1 (Zitelli 55). **Att:** 20,000.

NANTES 4 (Guyot 31, Ouedec 42, 79, 87)
TOULOUSE 1 (Ferrer 61). **Att:** 13,718.

ST ETIENNE 4 (G. Passi 20, Pagal 22, Kastendeuch 79 pen, Molnar 90)
VALENCIENNES 2 (Foulon 38, Gohel 78). **Att:** 13,768.

LE HAVRE 0
AUXERRE 0. **Att:** 9,175.

LENS 2 (R. Boli 74, Omam-Biyik 86)
TOULON 1 (Meyrieu 17). **Att:** 14,698.

STRASBOURG 1 (Hasek 71)
CAEN 1 (Dedebant 39). **Att:** 11,619.

SOCHAUX 1 (Caveglia 89 pen)
MONTPELLIER 1 (Carotti 18). **Att:** 1,970.

NIMES 0
LILLE 0. **Att:** 3,309.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 6

WEEKEND

TOULOUSE 3 (Debeve 2, Ferrer 44, Bancarel 53)
MARSEILLE 1 (Boksic 5). **Att:** 21,233.

PARIS SG 3 (Fournier 26, Guerin 43, Calderaro 89)
ST ETIENNE 1 (Kastendeuch 57 pen). **Att:** 28,000.

TOULON 4 (Eyraud 12, 84 pen, Collot 74, 61)
MONACO 5 (Andrijasevic 15, Fofana 23, Klinsmann 44, 61, Djorkaeff 88 pen). **Att:** 3,000.

LYON 2 (L. Delamontagne 8, Ngotty 28)
BORDEAUX 3 (Daniel 25, Dugarry 43, Zidane 60). **Att:** 13,896.

METZ 4 (J-M. Ferri 3 o.g., Chanlot 27, Huysman 37, Sechet 51)
NANTES 0. **Att:** 7,995.

AUXERRE 1 (Prunier 69)
LENS 1 (Wallemme 82). **Att:** 7,000.

LILLE 2 (Brisson 20, Frandsen 45)
STRASBOURG 3 (Leboeuf 58 pen, Mura 80, Hasek 85). **Att:** 5,284.

CAEN 2 (Laurey 1 o.g, Rouissi 89)
MONTPELLIER 3 (Laurey 63, Sanchez 56, 88). **Att:** 7,391.

NIMES 0
LE HAVRE 2 (Goudet 69, Roux 84). **Att:** 3,281.

VALENCIENNES 1 (Grosselin 87)
SOCHAUX 0. **Att:** 6,012.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, 13 JUNE

MIDWEEK

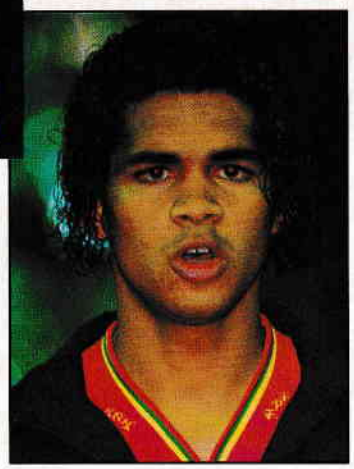
CUP — FINAL
PARIS SG 3 (Kombouare 46 pen, Ginola 55, Roche 60)
NANTES 0. **Att:** 38,789.

LEADING SCORERS

1	**Boksic** (Marseille)	23
2	**Gravelaine** (Caen)	20
3	**Klinsmann** (Monaco)	19
4	**Voller** (Marseille)	18
5	**Tiehi** (Le Havre)	14
	Weah (Paris SG)	14
7	**Ouedec** (Nantes)	13
	Ferrer (Toulouse)	13

PORTUGAL

SPO LIGHT ON ABEL XAVIER



ABEL XAVIER has signed a four-year contract with Benfica, and next season will leave Estrela Amadora.

Ready and willing

Benfica's new boy looks the business

Looking more like a rapper than a footballer, 20-year-old winger Xavier rolls up to training in his slick electric blue Rover. He seems set to go places, but his first stop is just down the road.

"Benfica was always my objective," Xavier admitted, "so I'm pretty happy with the deal. I'll have more responsibility, more work, and it will be quite a different group to play with."

Six years ago a leggy 14-year-old kid turned up at his local club. His natural flair was quickly recognised and Estrela took him on. With them, he has developed and flourished on the pitch into a highly talented player, poised to follow in the footsteps of such Portuguese greats as Eusebio. Xavier, like 60s star Eusebio, is originally from Mozambique, but left on the eve of independence in 1975, aged three.

Xavier holds a special affection for the club which set him up professionally. But now it is time to move on. He is one of the "1991 Wizards" who thrilled the home crowd when they led Portugal to recapture the World Youth title in Lisbon. Since then, he has never looked back and after 59 appearances with the youth team he moved up to the national squad this season in a World Cup qualifier against Switzerland.

Xavier may be young but his mature style of play and gentle temperament will help him adapt to the new stresses and challenges of a top European club.

Benfica saw the star quality and, after courting him for a long time, had the edge over other clubs — particularly arch rivals Sporting — who also tried bargaining for him. But no chance. Xavier admits his target was always Benfica. He refused to divulge the price on his head, except to smile slyly that it was a good contract — the best of the bunch.

"I always told my president (Jaime Salvado) I wanted to go to Benfica, but there arose a possibility of going to Sporting," Xavier reveals, though denying his transfer caused yet another feud between the two clubs.

Sporting entered into the negotiations too late, and their crosstown rivals by then had the advantage. Many chose to see the Abel Xavier signing as another coup for Benfica in the fierce war which rages between Lisbon's two major clubs.

Xavier's deal was signed and sealed on the eve of his second appearance in the national team when they won a World Cup qualifier against Scotland last April. "The experience with the national team was very motivating," Xavier feels, and is confident of both his own future and that of Portugal.

"I'm going to learn from the experienced players, like Rui Barros and Paulo Futre. The team is now a good mixture of experience and youth. In the future we can hand over to the young and have a good chance of making a great team."

Having had his national debut in the game against Switzerland, Xavier felt much calmer on that "unforgettable night" when Portugal shocked Scotland by blasting in five goals to snatch two valuable points and knock Scotland out of the running to go to the United States.

The result still gives Portugal a very slim chance to qualify in Group Two, which is headed by Switzerland.

Xavier's current team, Estrela, in their 41 years of existence, have played in all three divisions, rarely reaching great heights. Now they have won promotion from the Second Division, and look forward to consolidating in the future . . . even without Xavier.

SARAH **PROVAN**

CRISIS! Futre is sold

THE shared glory of FC Porto in winning the League championship and Benfica in winning the Cup was overshadowed almost the moment the season finished by off-stage dramatics at the Estadio da Luz.

Benfica, former European champions, able to whistle up the £4 million needed in mid-season to bring Paulo Futre home, suddenly ran out of money.

Not only Futre but fellow internationals Antonio Pacheco (right), Paulo Sousa, Joao Pinto and Rui Costa found their pay cheques bouncing — an alarming state of affairs for a club virtually a national monument.

Negotiations for Futre's sale to Marseille were concluded at lightning speed — doing little to increase Futre's personal popularity. A five-month stay in return for another big-money move hardly endeared him to the supporters.

Pacheco's contract was not due to expire until 1995. But he claimed that Benfica had cancelled it by failing to pay his salary on time and was immediately snapped up by neighbours Sporting.

Benfica president Jorge Do Brito was furious, saying: "I can't believe that a fine player such as Pacheco would do such a thing without talking to me first."

But Pacheco was merely the first in a long, valuable line. Next came former World Youth Cup-winning midfielder Paulo Sousa.

As soon as his pay cheque for May bounced he, too, submitted formal notice that he would capitalise on his legal right in such circumstances to consider his contract cancelled.

The significance of Sousa's departure was immense: Benfica had hoped to gain a financial breathing space by selling both Sousa and Russian striker Sergei Yuran (pursued by Newcastle) abroad for more than £1 million apiece.

Out of contract, Sousa would be worth next to nothing to Benfica — which the club should have thought about before letting his cheque bounce!

Hardly surprisingly, vice-president Alberto Silveira said the club would take Sousa to court rather than let him walk out.

One more day and Rui Costa and Joao Pinto complained that they, too, had not been paid.

Costa was persuaded to stay but Pinto refused to accept Benfica's promises, prompting speculation that he was about to join Sporting as well. Then Do Brito travelled to Spain, where Pinto was on holiday, and persuaded him to stay with the club.

By then the construction company who had expanded the Stadio de Luz from 80,000 to its present 130,000 capacity also complained of non-payment, and threatened to sue the club for £2.2 million.

Benfica were reduced to opening a special bank account and asking fans for donations to help bail them out, and the local media estimated their total debt as more than £4 million.

All this meant that Benfica's end-of-season success was largely forgotten.

They had beaten FC Porto and Sporting on their way to defeating Boavista 5-2 in front of the 60,000 in the Cup Final with a scintillating display of attacking football in the National Stadium.

FC Porto carried off the league title for the third year in succession although they stumbled a few times along the way and Brazilian coach Carlos Alberta da Silva was released — possibly to join Atletico Madrid.

Estrella Amadora, Uniao Madeira and Vitoria Setubal were promoted in place of Tirsense, Sporting Espinho and Desportivo Chaves, who took only 16 points.

ALBERTO **DA SILVA**

REPUBLIC of IRELAND

Champions lose their chief

CORK CITY, who won the League of Ireland Premier Division championship after two play-offs, lost manager Noel O'Mahony after becoming the first Cork club since 1974 to take the title.

O'Mahony had said during the season that it would be his last; many thought he would change his mind after winning the title, but he kept his word.

Cork were third in the regular league campaign and two play-offs were needed, with Shelbourne and Bohemians, to decide the winners.

Victory in the FAI Cup puts Shelbourne into the Cup-winners' Cup next season. Bohemians, who would have won the title if goal difference had applied, go into the UEFA Cup.

The 1993-94 season kicks off on Sunday August 15 with a new-look knock-out League Cup competition. Non-League clubs are excluded and the 22 clubs are divided into four groups on a geographical basis. The League Championship begins the following Sunday.

The FAI are not going to wait and see if the ambitious plans to bring the 2004 Olympics to Dublin are successful. They have signed a deal with the Irish Rugby Football Union for the use of Lansdowne Road until 2006.

This rules out any further talk of soccer internationals at Croke Park, the headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association, or at the proposed new stadium in Clondalkin.

The FAI have contributed towards the cost of floodlights at Lansdowne Road, which should be ready in October.

Millwall manager Mick McCarthy (left) is expected to make a decision about his international future before the new season begins.

His last game for the Republic was in the US Cup '92 in June last year, and unless he can get regular first-team football with his own club it's highly unlikely that we will see him in a green shirt again.

SEAN **CREEDON**

TURKEY

8-0 away!

Galatasaray clinch a doubtful double

THE 35th Turkish national championship produced a remarkable climax, when Galatasaray won their last match, away to Ankaragucu, by eight goals to nil.

This gave them the title on goal difference over Besiktas, whose 3-1 home defeat of Genclerbirligi was not enough to earn them a fourth successive championship.

Both teams had 64 points before the final match, with Galatasaray holding a two-goal advantage. As the results turned out, a victory by any margin would have been enough to give Gala the title.

But instead of struggling they simply swept eighth-placed Ankaragucu aside, three of the goals being scored by former East German international Torsten Gutschow.

Gala's triumph was immediately the subject of an inquiry into alleged bribery of opposing players. But the attacking tactics adopted by German coach Kalli Feldkamp, in his first season with the club, had won wide praise. Gala scored most goals (74 in 30 games) and conceded fewest, a mere 21, only six of them in away matches.

Yet they had lost inspirational midfielder Okan early this year, with a broken leg, and Feldkamp had switched to coaching the juniors in the later weeks of the season, after leading Gala to victory in the Turkish Cup, leaving fellow-countryman Rainer Holmann in charge of the first team.

Subject to the inquiry Gala have opted to go into next season's Champions' Cup, hoping to equal or even better their feat of 1989, on their last appearance in the competition.

They then reached the semi-final, the best performance by any Turkish club, beating Rapid Vienna 3-1, Neuchatel Xamax 5-3 — after losing the first leg 3-0 — and Monaco 2-1 before crashing 5-1 to Steaua Bucharest.

Besiktas compete in the Cup-winners' Cup, and third-placed Trabzonspor in the UEFA Cup with Kocaelispor, who finished fourth only a year after winning promotion. Saffet and Ergun scored 18 goals each, and Mirkovic was outstanding in midfield.

Perhaps Kocaeli can go on to break the Big Three domination of Turkish football. Of the 66 national championship and Cup competitions, Galatasary have won 19, Fenerbahce 16 and Besiktas 11.

But there is no European place next season for Fenerbahce, who could finish only fifth despite 27 goals — best in the League — by Tanju.

Coach Joszef Venglos (above) has left, after protracted rows, and Reinhard Saftig, formerly of Bayer Leverkusen, who was tipped as his successor, has decided against the move. President Metin Asik has resigned, as well.

The national team also need a new coach, having decided that Sepp Piontek is not the right man — hardly a surprise in view of his record. Piontek will take charge of Bursaspor for next season, on a one-year contract, with Fatih Terim stepping up from No. 2 with the national squad and acting as caretaker until a new chief is found.

● TURKEY'S Olympic footballers won the Mediterranean Games in France, beating Algeria 2-0 in the final with goals by Sergen of Besiktas and Hakan of Galatasaray.

In the group matches Faith Terim's side drew 1-1 with the hosts, beat Croatia 3-2 — with two more goals by Sergen — and beat Tunisia 3-0 with Sergen and Hakan again on the scoresheet.

That set up a semi-final rematch with France, and a goal by Hakan, seven minutes from time, was enough to ensure a place in the final.

The victorious players will share a £250,000 bonus and some will strengthen Turkey's squad for their next World Cup tie, against Norway.

HASAN **CEMALI**

AEK . . . back row (l to r): Minou, Manolas, Dimitriadis, Mitropoulos, Papaioannou, Saveski, Atmatzidis, Bayevic. Front row (l to r): Karayiannis, Tsartas, Sambanantsovic, Alexandris, Vasilopoulos, Stamatis.

GREECE

Vasilis wins another car

IF Vasilis Dimitriadis of AEK Athens ever gets tired of playing soccer, he can always sell cars.

For the second year in a row Dimitriadis ended up as the leading scorer in the Greek First Division, winning a second new car in as many years.

A local dealer gives one to the top scorer each season.

Dimitriadis "drove" to the top with a goal in a 3-1 victory over Olympiakos that clinched the League crown for his club by one point.

He finished with 33 goals, the second best total in Europe and one better than Kristof Warzycha of Panathinaikos. Dimitriadis, who scored with all 11 of his penalty attempts, now has signed a new three-year contract.

The win gave AEK 78 points, Panathinaikos will represent Greece in the Cup-Winners' Cup, and Olympiakos and OFI Crete will go into the UEFA Cup.

Pierikos, Ionikos and Korinthos were relegated and replaced by Naousa — for the first time — Levadiakos and Panionios.

Ticket sales continued to go down, not helped by live TV. For the fifth season in a row First Division gates dropped, this time to an average of 4,909. Only 191 tickets were sold for the Korinthos v Apollon Kalamarias match on the final day.

Panathinaikos were top scorers with a record 85 goals, and had the best defence as well — 21 goals against in 34 matches.

Nikos Nioplias of OFI was player of the season, and AEK's Dusan Bayevic was best manager.

The Athens Olympic Stadium management announced that since 1987, when the ground was first used by soccer teams, close to 60,000 of the 74,000 plastic seats have been destroyed by supporters.

The stadium authorities are currently in court trying to get back 200 million drachmas from various teams to pay for the damage.

LOU **ECONOMOPOULOS**

ICELAND

IA seek a double

CHAMPIONS IA Akranes are strong favourites for another championship.

Although they sold the Gunnlaugsson twins to Feyenoord, the team seem to be showing their former strength.

After five matches they had 12 points and a goal difference of plus 14 — thanks mainly to their 10-1 defeat of Vikingur Reykjavik. This was the biggest win in the First Division for 20 years.

"The team have good stability throughout," says Gudjon Thordarson, the manager.

"It's going to be really difficult, because all teams want to beat the champions, but we'll try our best and hopefully that will be enough."

When KA Akureyri won the championship in 1989, under Thordarson's management, it was one of the biggest surprises in the nation's soccer history.

Thordarson began at IA in 1991, when they took the Second Division, and won the championship a year later.

Thordarson, without a doubt Iceland's top manager, will surely be thought of as a candidate for the national role in future.

BJORN **HRAFNSSON**

TABLES

GREECE — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK	34	24	6	4	78	27	78
Panathinaikos	34	24	5	5	85	21	77
Olympiakos	34	20	8	6	68	31	68
OFI Crete	34	19	9	6	64	32	66
PAOK	34	17	6	11	52	38	57
Heraklis	34	16	8	10	51	41	56
Larissa	34	11	10	13	36	42	43
Xanthi	34	11	9	14	56	66	42
Aris	34	12	6	16	40	50	42
Panahaiki	34	10	9	15	41	50	39
Athinaikos	34	9	12	13	27	37	39
Kalamaria	34	8	13	13	28	42	37
Apollon	34	10	7	17	27	49	37
Doxa	34	9	9	16	34	57	36
Edessaikos	34	9	7	18	36	60	34
Pierikos	34	9	7	18	35	62	34
Ionikos	34	9	6	19	33	49	33
Corinthos	34	6	9	19	28	65	27

TURKEY — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	30	21	5	4	80	20	68
Besiktas	30	18	10	2	67	20	64
Kocaelispor	30	18	8	4	62	24	62
Trabzonspor	30	15	11	4	54	27	56
Fenerbahce	29	17	5	7	56	37	56
Bursaspor	30	14	7	9	42	35	49
Altay	30	12	5	13	37	38	41
Genclerbirligi	30	9	9	12	39	54	36
Gaziantepspor	30	11	3	16	41	57	36
Sariyer	30	10	5	15	41	44	35
Ankaragucu	30	9	4	17	37	61	31
Karsiyaka	30	7	9	14	39	48	30
Kayserispor	30	7	6	17	27	57	27
Bakirkoyspor	29	5	11	13	30	41	26
Aydinspor	29	6	7	16	19	53	25
Konyaspsor	29	2	9	18	27	82	15

CYPRUS — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Omonia	26	18	5	3	75	30	59
Apollon	26	17	6	3	66	25	57
Salamina	26	15	3	8	44	28	48
Apoel	26	12	7	7	52	39	43
Anorthosis	26	11	6	9	32	33	39
Pezoporikos	26	8	10	8	46	39	34
AEL	26	9	16	11	42	40	33
Paralimni	26	10	3	13	46	48	33
Ethnikos	26	10	3	13	46	49	33
EPA Larnaca	26	8	8	10	40	48	32
Olympiakos	26	8	7	11	34	52	31
Evagoras	26	8	6	12	39	45	30
Aris	26	8	6	12	33	52	30
Apop	26	1	2	23	17	84	5

PORTUGAL — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	34	24	6	4	59	17	54
Benfica	34	22	8	4	60	18	52
Sporting	34	17	11	6	59	30	45
Boavista	34	14	11	9	46	34	39
Maritimo	34	15	7	12	56	48	37
Farense	34	11	13	10	41	36	35
Belenenses	34	11	12	11	42	40	34
Beira-Mar	34	10	12	12	24	33	32
Gil Vicente	34	12	7	15	34	42	31
Pacos Ferreira	34	10	11	13	35	44	31
Guimaraes	34	14	3	17	41	53	31
Braga	34	12	6	16	33	34	30
Estoril	34	9	12	13	29	41	30
Famalicao	34	10	10	14	29	48	30
Salgueiros	34	10	9	15	28	44	29
Tirsense	34	10	8	16	27	37	28
Espinho	34	9	10	15	38	55	28
Chaves	34	4	8	22	34	61	16

HOLLAND — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	34	22	9	3	82	32	53
PSV Eindhoven	34	22	7	5	81	34	51
Ajax	34	20	9	5	87	30	49
Vitesse Arnhem	34	16	14	4	58	29	46
FC Twente	34	17	8	9	64	39	42
FC Volendam	34	12	13	9	51	34	37
MVV	34	15	7	12	49	47	37
FC Utrecht	34	12	11	11	44	40	35
RKC	34	12	9	13	49	57	33
Willem II	34	12	8	14	41	38	32
Roda JC	34	11	7	16	51	59	29
FC Groningen	34	9	11	14	31	49	29
Sparta	34	8	11	15	36	65	27
Cambuur	34	6	13	15	39	58	25
GA Eagles	34	8	9	17	36	64	25
Fortuna Sittard	34	7	7	20	34	76	21
Den Bosch	34	6	9	19	35	79	21
SVV/Dordrecht	34	5	10	19	30	68	20

SWITZERLAND — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Aarau	14	9	4	1	21	7	34
Young Boys	14	5	4	5	15	15	28
Lugano	14	7	2	5	21	14	27
Servette	14	5	3	6	16	19	27
Zurich	14	5	4	5	13	14	26
Neuchatel Xamax	14	4	5	5	16	16	24
Sion	14	4	3	7	17	22	24
Lausanne	14	3	3	8	11	23	21

LUXEMBOURG — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Avenir Beggen	10	7	2	1	31	14	28.5
Union	10	7	1	2	27	10	27.5
Jeunesse Esch	10	4	3	3	23	23	23
Grevenmacher	10	3	3	4	12	20	20.5
Dudelange	10	4	1	5	19	21	18
Esch Fola	10	0	0	10	6	30	8.5

SWEDEN

Degerfors defy the gloom

LITTLE-KNOWN Degerfors won the first title in their history by beating Landskrona 3-0 in the Cup Final.

Degerfors have been struggling in the Swedish Premier Division, in their first season back at the top level after 26 years, while Landskrona are First Division leaders.

Sadly the victory was only a temporary respite from the gloom surrounding the town of Degerfors. Many of the 10,000 inhabitants are employed by the ironworks, which is due to be shut, and on the day after the match several players joined other citizens on the streets in protest against the closure.

The football club's manager is Lars Olaf Mattsson, in his first season after succeeding Soren Cratz.

Mattsson studied for a coaching certificate in Scotland, under national coach Andy Roxburgh.

Ulf Ottosson, 25, is one of the top players, along with Henrik Berger, 24, and an import from Montenegro, Milenko Vukcevic, 27.

His fellow countryman, Dusko Radinovic, 30, also arrived recently and made his debut in the Cup Final, scoring the third goal after earlier efforts by Berger and Ottosson.

Most of the players, however, have come up through the junior ranks, as the legendary Gunnar Nordahl did half a century ago. Now, only two years after leaving the Second Division, they are looking ahead to European competition.

Promoted Helsingborgs IF are improving ticket sales, drawing fans back to the terraces wherever they play.

Their recent visit to Malmo was watched by 28,716 people. Not bad, considering that the clash between IFK Gothenburg and Orgryte, generally thought of as the classic of all Sweden's local derbies, attracted only 7,294.

One of the secrets of HIF's popularity is that they are generally well liked by neutral fans. They do not raise passions in the way that clubs such as Gothenburg, AIK or Malmo do when they travel.

"HIF have artists in their side, the right types, and they play skilful and daring football," says Tom Prahl, coach of Trelleborg.

Young forward Henke Larsson is the idol of the HIF line-up. But it is not all roses for club coach Bo Nilsson.

"We sometimes lack discipline — we scored four at Trelleborg and three at Malmo, yet still did not win," he says.

AIK were the last team to surrender their unbeaten record, 3-2 to Halmstad. Norrkoping are closing in, mainly thanks to top-scoring forward Kenneth Andersson and midfielder Jan Jansson, signed earlier from Oster.

STELLAN **DANIELSSON**

FINLAND

Hjelm chases two records

FINNISH national team skipper Ari Hjelm is close to breaking two records.

Hjelm (above) needs three more games to become Finland's most capped player — the record is 76, held by Arto Tolsa — and his 14 goals at the full level are only three fewer than Verner Eklof's total from the 1920s. Ironically, as Hjelm hit his 14th, in a World Cup match against Austria, he also incurred a yellow card, which kept him out of the following match against Israel.

"The suspension really angered me, because otherwise I could have surpassed Tolsa's record in the match against our best rivals, Sweden, next October," says Hjelm.

He was born in 1962, is nicknamed Zico after the great Brazilian, and comes from Tampere, Finland's third-biggest town. Ice hockey is the top sport there, but Hjelm has become the symbol of the town's most successful football club, Ilves.

He led the club to League honours in 1983, and scored in the 2-1 Cup Final win over HJK Helsinki in 1990.

"One of my most memorable club matches for Ilves was in the UEFA Cup in 1986, when we met Rangers," Hjelm says.

"We lost 3-0 at Ibrox but in the return I managed to hit two goals. Graeme Souness had just taken over and, in the end, as we piled on the pressure, he was scared stiff!"

Hjelm was 26 when he joined Stuttgart Kickers, in 1988. After only two seasons, he returned to Ilves, but is currently in Germany again, playing on loan for Second Division club St Pauli.

"The Germans are very thorough people, hard-working and punctual," he says.

"Their clubs are well run, the game is though, but you are still allowed to express yourself as an individual."

Although Hjelm has been an international for ten years, he took three to become a regular.

"My biggest regret is that I had to miss Finland's World Cup game against England at Wembley in 1984. I was in good form, but at the final moment our coach decided to bring in a midfielder from the United States! We lost 5-0!"

Hjelm points out that he has not always played as a forward for Finland.

"I have often had to cover up in midfield or in a defensive position, but I see myself as a striker, as a goalscorer. I have scored many goals with my head or with shots from close range.

"I have never been very quick, but I am very persistent by nature. I don't give up very easily."

PENTTI **HIETANEN**

Laukkanen axed

HJK HELSINKI started the Finnish season in fine form and led the table, but had to surrender their run of 18 unbeaten home matches, when losing 2-0 to Harri Kampman's Mypa.

The biggest shock so far was Kuusysi Lahti's 7-1 defeat by FC Jazz. Brazilians Rodrigo and Piracaia and Finnish Under-21 striker Antti Sumiala were outstanding.

Finland's 3-1 World Cup win over Austria was a triumph for new coach Tommy Lindholm and his zonal marking, but there is news of a rift between him and Kari Laukkanen, considered by many to be Finland's best goalkeeper.

"Laukkanen chose to stay away from the match in Sofia against Bulgaria, and to play for Mannheim instead," says Lindholm.

"That was not acceptable, and as long as I am the national coach he will not play for Finland again."

DENMARK

Record crowd sees real grounds for hope

FC COPENHAGEN, Denmark's newest club, celebrated winning the league less than a year after being formed — with victory in a dramatic match sparking huge optimism that Danish league soccer has finally reached the high ground.

They beat arch-rivals Brondby 3-2 away in front of an 18,270 crowd — the biggest ever to watch a club game in Denmark — to clinch the title with one round of matches left.

Young striker Martin Johansen, who has just made it into the national side, scored a 90th-minute winner to spark scenes of intense jubilation for the club created out of a merger between KB and B1903. It also was revenge for a recent 4-0 home defeat against Brondby which had threatened their march to the title.

The mass-circulation *Ekstra Bladet* called the game "the best Danish league match for 25 years. It shows we now have class, intellectual refinement. We have passed our exams on the green grass."

And the *Jyllands Posten* added: "It was the perfect match, a dramatic and explosive finish to the season which will have an inspiring effect without parallel on our soccer."

Copenhagen coach Benny Johansen was not about to disagree. He said: "This is what the public want, positive football. Fans are responding, and we are coming out of a crisis."

Attendances are indeed hugely encouraging, with a 17.4 per cent rise on last season. Only time will tell whether such super-optimism is justified, but certainly the recession and fatalism of the late 1980s is gone.

The national side are well placed to qualify for the World Cup finals after their triumph in the European Championhip — with a majority of home-based players. That is perhaps the most telling success of the Superliga system introduced a couple of years ago.

Winners . . . FC Copenhagen.

The season is now winter-based, spread into halves with a long break. In the first half 10 clubs play each other twice, with the bottom two falling into a qualification league. The top eight then continue through the spring in a reduced league that has produced quality football.

Below that the qualification league has eight teams, of which the top two are promoted. This year Ikast and Viborg from Jutland have gone up.

Silkeborg's Jacob Kjeldbjerg was named the man of the season in a poll among players. Kjeldbjerg is studying to become a lawyer and is contracted until 1995 but may well go abroad before then.

● THE Danish government arranged for the Zambian national squad — being rebuilt after the recent air disaster — to spend six weeks at training camps in Denmark, without cost.

The new-look Zambian side have played several games, one of them a 3-0 victory over Lyngby.

JIM **HOLDEN**

BROOKING TALKBACK

BBC Radio and TV commentator TREVOR BROOKING, the former England midfielder, answers your letters. . .

Catalogue of errors

SIR — The 2-0 humiliation against the US means that England's national side has gone from fourth place at Italia '90 to a disgraceful world ranking equal to our Davis Cup tennis team.

As the FA can't seem to accept that 95 per cent of English fans are rightly upset and angry at their handling of the national teams affairs, let me list their failings for them.

1 They appointed a manager with NO international experience and next to no top-class playing experience.
2 Graham Taylor (above) gets rid of experienced players even though they are in top form for their clubs i.e. Beardsley, Waddle, Parker etc.
3 Then, after struggling to qualify for the European Championship in 1992, he takes off our leading goalscorer, Gary Lineker, and publicly humiliates him, when in his own words — "we needed a goal badly!"
4 Mr Millichip and the clowns at the FA give Taylor a vote of confidence after the tournament.
5 England throw away a two-goal lead against Holland, and shamefully capitulate to a physically strong Norway. Taylor changes his whole formation to subdue a 6ft 4in Norwegian Second Division player!
6 Finally, England become the footballing world's laughing stock by being totally outclassed by the US.

Taylor should have been spared the nation's wrath, by being dismissed after our failure in Sweden, but while we are run by an outdated, gutless bunch of old men at the FA, England's decline is inevitable.

— M. WRIGHT, 12 Wetherby Close, Ipswich, Suffolk, IPI 6QT.

● I CAN understand your frustration after the recent poor England displays which have left our World Cup hopes so precariously placed.

As far as whether Graham Taylor should stay, I am one of those people who believe contracts should be honoured, and so therefore feel he must be allowed to complete the qualifying matches so that a final assessment can be made.

Don't forget Bobby Robson was equally slammed by critics, but by the end of the 1990 Finals in Italy he left on a personal high. I do accept though, there have been a number of baffling team selections during Taylor's spell, and his constant switch of team systems must be unsettling for the players.

The FA also must take their share of the blame as it appears our national coaching structure is not creating a sufficient foundation at grass roots level to improve the skill factor in our youngsters.

Good technique and passing habits have to be encouraged at primary school age so that our professional clubs receive a better quality player when it's time to leave school.

A much closer link with professional clubs and ex-professional players would hasten the progress being attempted in this area.

Not worth the lira

SIR — I have watched Milan's Gianluigi Lentini (right) against Inter, Ancona, Lazio (twice), Brescia, Parma, Juventus, Pescara, Foggia and at international level against Germany, Holland and Scotland.

In all these games the best he has been is moderate. I don't rate him as £1 million class, never mind £13 million class.

— DAVID COATS, Lenzie, Glasgow, Scotland, G65 5NQ.

● I MUST admit to being equally disappointed when seeing Lentini in action last season.

Obviously when Milan signed him they were expanding their squad of "home" players with a view to the restrictions on the use of foreigners in European ties.

I'm sure he's not too concerned having received a very lucrative contract following such a massive transfer fee. It would be interesting to see what offers they might get now, as certainly his current value would not match anywhere near that inflated price.

Captain Gascoigne

SIR — Isn't it time Paul Gascoigne (below) was made captain of England?

Shouldn't he be given the leading role?

— LOUIS J. McCARTHY, Flat 4, 11 Westbourne Grove Terrace, London, W2 5SD.

● IN a word, No! There is no way Paul Gascoigne is the sort of personality or character who would be suited for captaincy.

He is one of those gifted talents who fluctuate between supreme brilliance and then the very ordinary.

It means he needs to focus entirely on his own level of performance, so that his consistency improves and he can dominate matches in the way he is capable of doing.

Last season was one where his initial aim was to convince himself he could overcome his lengthy injury absence.

The forthcoming season is a major test for him, as both England and Lazio need him back at his very best.

Hearty praise for Gullit

SIR — So Ruud Gullit is leaving Milan. They are a completely different team with Gullit on the pitch. His past performances prove this point.

There is a saying in America about possible great players in any sport: "You can tell how many points, goals, or touchdowns a man scores, but you can never measure the size of his heart".

There is no need to measure Gullit's heart.

— JAMES LINNEAR, PO Box 9611, San Jose, California, US.

● MILAN'S marvellous period of domination is suddenly in danger of disappearing with not only the departure of Ruud Gullit, but also Frank Rijkaard leaving, and Marco Van Basten's career under threat through injury.

This wonderful Dutch influence has supplied an enthralling mixture of success and entertainment, which will be virtually impossible for Milan to replace.

Gullit has played a major part and will be sorely missed, but perhaps it is better to leave now rather than risk falling below the standards and memories provided in the past.

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Blessing in disguise

SIR — Maybe it will be a blessing if England don't qualify for the World Cup finals. For emerging nations like Cameroon or South Korea to outplay England would cause further embarrassment.

The time is here to introduce younger players to try to establish consistency and confidence. Now, rather than later, when defeat in Holland ends any lingering hopes of qualifying.

Good luck to Wales and the Republic of Ireland in their attempts to qualify for the 1994 finals and restore some pride to the British Isles.

— DAVID SCHOFIELD, 22 Seaham Road, Houghton-Le-Spring, Tyne and Wear, DHS 8EA.

● ***WALES and The Republic of Ireland definitely have great hopes of qualifying, but I sincerely hope England can rediscover some sort of form and complete a trio of countries supplying home interest.***

It would be a terrible blow for our national game if we failed to make the finals, although I tend to believe Graham Taylor will resist the temptation to risk blooding any younger players until their fate is decided during the next few months.

The African countries are improving all the time and I don't believe any side will feel embarrassed to lose to such opposition, because technically they are giving a lead to many of the more traditional countries. It is that attacking skill and flair which England desperately needs to encourage back into our younger players.

Grounds for complaint

SIR — All these letters complaining about North Americans wanting more scoring in soccer . . . it is jealousy.

The 1994 World Cup will be played in modern all-seat stadiums with video scoreboards and plenty of food outlets.

Meanwhile, most of the soccer stadiums in England look as if they were built around the time of Queen Victoria and could be confused with the local landfill site.

I'll take the Rose Bowl over Wembley any day.

— MITCHELL KLINGER, 152 Kirk Drive, Thornhill, Ontario, Canada, L3T 3L4.

● ***HAVING visited America in the summer for the US Cup '93 I cannot argue with your comments about the quality of stadiums available for the World Cup in 1994.***

Large enthusiastic crowds dispelled any doubts about insufficient interest, while the marketing and communications available suggest everything is in place to make it a memorable tournament.

As a result of the 1994 all-seater requirement of the Taylor Report a number of major English clubs have invested heavily in improving the quality of their facilities, and your current criticism may not look so valid a couple of years from now.

As far as the concern over the entertainment value, it was quite ironic how many US Cup matches had an unusually high quota of goals. It only confirmed that further rule charges are quite unnecessary, and that a positive attacking approach is all that is required by sides.

Fair play please

SIR — Rivalry among clubs is an essential part of football. Therefore club directors, who are not innocents abroad, must know that resignations, sackings or speculation about a manager's future arising from board meetings — ordinary or emergency — will attract the greatest publicity.

Was it really necessary for Liverpool and Spurs to conduct their internal affairs on the day Manchester United won the Premier League and the day before Arsenal took part in the FA Cup Final, with the coverage being diverted?

If internal disputes drag on all season or occur in the last weeks, then they should be resolved after the official end of season. It could be seen as a more sporting gesture to the clubs who would like to enjoy their success in winning titles, cups or promotion without being overshadowed by reports of boardroom disputes.

— JANET EDGE, 77 Fallowfield Road, Wavertree, Liverpool L5 5BN.

● ***CERTAINLY the Spurs saga took a good deal of the limelight away from the FA Cup preparations although in the end Arsenal fans had the last laugh with a unique Cup double.***

I doubt whether either Liverpool or Spurs deliberately engineered the timing of their boardroom squabbles because in all honesty it reflected very poorly on both of them.

PENPALS

SOUTHAMPTON fans wanted as penfriends. All answered.
— Peter M. Chisareh, Box A/c 70, Ascot, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

MILAN and Paulo Maldini fan, 18, seeks penpals from Italy.
— Miss Angela Borgonzolo, 30a Connaught Street, Hyde Park, London W2 2AE.

WORLDWIDE penfriends wanted by fan of Van Basten, Weah, Rijkaard, Lentini and Pele.
— Richard Amissah Ocran, c/o Teye Memorial Institute, PO Box 81, Achimota, Accra, Ghana.

LIVERPOOL and Man United fans, please write.
— Oumez Sikhosana, 1791 New Magwegwe, PO Magwegwe, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

EVERTON fan wants to correspond with fans of St Johnstone, Juventus, Ajax, Moscow Spartak and Gornik Zabrze and also support Everton.
— Alan Ormesher, 29 Jermingham Road, Norris Green, Liverpool L11 7BX.

IRISH male, 21, football fanatic, seeking Japanese and other enthusiasts. Can respond in English, Italian, French or Japanese.
— Gavin Campbell, 27 Glentaisie Drive, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland.

MALTESE soccer fan, 16, seeks penfriend in Malta.
— Richard Broadhurst, 35 Kynance Crescent, Brinsworth, Rotherham, S. Yorks, England.

FOOTBALL fan, 21, seeks penpals m/f, 15-40.
— Edwin G. Mtangwanika, PO Box 30337 Chichiri, BT3, Malawi.

I AM a Man United and Milan follower seeking penpals anywhere. All letters answered.
— Yasser Elmadbooh, Mahallet Abo Ali, Mahalla Elkubra, 31814, Egypt.

REAL MADRID and Werder Bremen fan seeks European penfriends.
— Jesus Villanueva, Lope de Vega 286, 7-7, Barcelona 08018, Spain.

FOOTBALL fan, 20, seeks penfriends, esp. from Japan, US/Canada, Norway and Denmark.
— Prince Chales, c/o Margaret Darley, Juaso Cocoa Station, PO Box 17, Juaso a/a Ghana.

IRISH girl, 16, loves Italian soccer (esp. Fiorentina), seeks penpals from Italy and elsewhere. Write English/French/German.
— Eimear O'Sullivan, 70 McKee Road, Finglas, Dublin 11, Rep. Ireland.

I PLAY for Rangers club here and want to be a penpal with fans of the other Rangers and any other British teams.
— Sainey Jarju,c/o Saye, PO Box 942, Banjul, The Gambia.

NORWEGIAN male, 20, seeks football friends all over the world, esp. girls.
— Torbjorn Andersen, Nerliveien 2, 4030 Hinna, Norway.

FAN of Man United, 24, would like to correspond with others worldwide.
— Manuel Amanda, No. 0 11, Box 3, Shangani, Zimbabwe.

EXCHANGES

SOUVENIRS of English clubs wanted in exchange for Polish. Write in either language.
— Sebastian Keozierski, ul. H. Sawickiej 43-54, 62-800 Kalisz, Poland.

METAL BADGES for exchange with serious collectors worldwide.
— Salvador Stancato, CC 3515, 1000 Buenos Airies, Argentina.

SOCCER cap collector willing to swap for foreign caps.
— Graham Munro, 30B Saltburn, Invergordon, Ross-shire, Scotland.

I EXCHANGE stadium postcards, scarves, tickets, badges, books.
— Bruno Belli, Via C. Dragoni 10, 50047 Prato, Italy.

DYNAMO supporter wants to exchange programmes etc worldwide.
— Andrew Velikanov, 5-4-293 Prospect 60 October, Moscow 117334, Russia.

WANTED

NEW Milan shirt, posters and team pictures, and Walter Zenga posters/pictures.
— Miss Angela Borgonzolo, 30a Connaught Street, London W2 AEE.

I WILL buy or exchange postcards of the grounds used in the 1966 World Cup in England.
— Elio Landini, Vic Dell'Agnello 2/25, 16124 Genoa, Italy.

MAN UNITED fan seeks penfriends supporting Fenercvaros, Parma, Sweden, Argentina, who live in those countries. Please write in English.
— Mark Sweeney, 71 Valley Park Road, Finglas South, Dublin 11, Rep. Ireland.

DENMARK shirt, L/XL, 86-87 season, home/away.
— Joe Schutt, Foxhill, Eglinton Avenue, Guisborough, Cleveland, England.

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BELGUIM

THE SPOTLIGHT ON BERTRAND CRASSON

Write on to the top

PROMISING young Anderlecht right-back Bertrand Crasson used to dream of life as a reporter. Today he is inspiring headlines of his own.

"When I was at school my aim was to have a career in newspapers or television," he recalls.

"One of my best subjects was economics, and I hoped to be a financial journalist.

"I did well in my exams and began a course in journalism at Brussels University. At that time I was in Anderlecht's reserve side and I was far from sure that I would be given the chance to turn professional.

"A few months later, however, I broke into the team and found it increasingly difficult to combine my sporting and academic commitments, so I decided to abandon my studies and concentrate on soccer.

"I took a little time to make up my mind, but I've no regrets about dropping out of college. I've already achieved a lot as a footballer. In three seasons with Anderlecht I've won two championship medals and represented my country at senior level.

"I have not given up studying for good. I go to foreign language classes whenever I can and read a lot during my travels with Anderlecht. When I eventually retire from football, I'll definitely return to higher education."

Crasson's spell at university was certainly not a pointless exercise. He appreciates that co-operation with the media is part of his professional duties and his journalistic knowledge, eloquence and good humour make him a favourite with soccer writers.

Not surprisingly, Crasson was the first player asked to comment when Anderlecht sacked coach Luka Peruzovic last January and brought in Jan Boskamp.

"It is difficult not to feel sorry for Luka," Crasson said. "At this club the supporters expect us to win comprehensively and entertain every week, and during the first half of the season our play was not particularly thrilling. Peruzovic paid the price for our lack of exciting football.

"Anderlecht fans are very demanding and are often quick to criticise and jeer. They do not realise how hard it is to turn it on consistently.

"Every club in Belgium want to beat us and they pull out all the stops against Anderlecht. In such games there is not much room for stylish soccer."

Crasson, born in Brussels on October 5, 1971, started his football life as an attacker for the Under-10 side run by Red Star of Evere. At 14 he was recruited by Anderlecht and converted into a defender — operating first as a sweeper and then at right-back.

In the autumn of 1989 he made his senior debut as a substitute in a League match at Ekeren. But the best part of a year passed before he really established himself.

At the beginning of the 1990-91 season, new Anderlecht boss Aad De Mos faced a defensive dilemma.

Regular right-back Georges Grun had departed for Parma, and dependable Dutch international Adri Van Tiggelen was injured. Crasson was asked to step in, and he did not disappoint.

In the next ten months he produced a string of solid and mature full-back displays as Anderlecht claimed another League title. And to crown a remarkable opening chapter to his career, he earned his first full cap on May 1, 1991, when Belgium lost 1-0 to Germany in a European Championship tie.

"What I like about Bertrand was that he was always so level-headed," says De Mos. "I threw him into the Anderlecht side when he was only 18, but he took it all in his stride. He was never bothered by the media's sudden interest in him, and kept his feet on the ground."

NICK **BIDWELL**

PRO-FILE

BERTRAND CRASSON ANDERLECHT AND BELGIUM

Born: October 5, 1971, in Brussels.

Previous Club: Red Star Evere.

League debut: November 1989, for Anderlecht v Ekeren.

International debut: May 1991 v Germany.

International caps: 2 (0 goals).

HONOURS
Belgian Championship: 1991, 1993.

Standard success

TWO GOALS in the second half enables Standard Liege to take the Belgian Cup Final against Charleroi at Parc Astrid.

The match was evenly balanced at half-time, but soon after the restart Vos scored the first goal, and Leonard added another 20 minutes later.

Victory was consolation for Standard, coached by Ari Haan, who had trailed in second, 13 points behind Anderlecht, in the title chase.

Anderlecht lost only two of their 34 League games, but were beaten in both legs of the Cup semi-final . . . by Charleroi.

HOLLAND

Robson can afford to smile

AS Bobby Robson prepares for his new season in Portugal he must be enjoying a few quiet chuckles.

Nobody is perfect, and Robson would be the first to admit that over the years he has made a few mistakes.

But a couple of years ago he was publicly blamed for virtually every problem, on and off the field, with PSV.

Not only Dutch journalists, but also some of his own players fired verbal bullets in his direction.

There was no extension of Robson's contract with PSV and off he went to Sporting Lisbon. In Holland it was suggested his problem was being a "foreign manager".

The fact remains that under Robson, PSV stayed on top.

Not any more. Hans Westerhof (yes, a top Dutch coach) was appointed, and flop after flop followed. PSV were kicked out of the Dutch FA Cup, made to look like amateurs in the Champions League, and finally forced to hand over their Dutch title to Feyenoord.

Nobody suggested it was all down to Westerhof. But in the end the board sacked him. Surprise, surprise!

In view of possible legal action by the coaches' union, PSV agreed to keep Westerhof on the staff, as chief youth coach, so that they could bring in the new manager they wanted — Aad de Mos, ex-manager of Ajax, KV Mechelen and Anderlecht.

PSV chairman Jacques Ruts says it all in simple terms. PSV are not only looking for success . . . "there must be more discipline within the club." That says it all, and Robson (left) undrestands it perfectly! Virtually nothing has gone right for PSV over the past 12 months.

Even the local Labour Exchange invoked Dutch law and refused permission for PSV to sack Jan Heintze, Kalusha Bwalya, Dick Schreuder and Jerry de Jong.

Still on the coaching front, Piet Schrijvers, for such a long time Holland's keeper, has become chief coach for AZ, and Hans Berger, former manager of FC Utrecht and Dordrecht has taken over at Sparta from Rob Jacobs. For the second time in his career Jacobs has gone to Greece — this time as coach to Panachaiki Patras.

And Wim Van Hanegem and Geert Meijer have led Feyenoord to their first Dutch title for nine years.

So, PSV and Ajax missed it. But not a bad way for Dennis Bergkamp and Wim Jonk to say goodbye to Ajax and hello to Inter. In the first place Ajax went into the Cup-winners' Cup by beating Heerenveen 6-2 in the Dutch Cup Final.

Then, in their last home game, Ajax beat Fortuna Sittard 5-1.

After Wembley

THE Dutch are doing their best to introduce the FA Cup atmosphere to Holland.

The target is clear. After Wembley staged both FA Cup semi-finals, plus the final and the replay, the Dutch FA want all FA Cup finals played on the same ground. And for the next few years that will be the Feyenoord Stadium in Rotterdam.

ERIC **NICHOLLS**

HUNGARY

Kuusela's flying start

BRAVE Haladas, the Division Two (West) champions, lost the Hungarian Cup final to Ferencvaros, 5-3 on penalties after two 1-1 draws and a 90th-minute equalizer in the second leg by midfielder Sandor Kovacs.

A minute's silence preceded the kick-off in honour of Dr Gyorgy Sarosi, a former great of Ferencvaros and Hungary, who has died aged 81.

Fenercvaros led through Imre Foder in the 22nd minute, had more possession and speed in attack, but failed to make their marginal superiority count.

Former Finnish national team manager Martti Kuusela has agreed a new one-year contract after taking Kispest-Honved to the championship.

Vac FC-Samsung, having led throughout the spring season, lost in the 28th of the 30-round championship, 3-1 at home to Fenercvaros, and thereby enabled Kispest, with a late own-goal winner at doomed Veszprem, to take over the lead and then best Csepel (5-0 at home) and Diosgyor (5-1 in Miskolc).

Kuusela, who replaced Jozsef Verebes midway through the autumn season, produced an attractive, agile, team who in 21 matches dropped only nine points.

Amid jubilant scenes at Miskolc he said: "Everybody was laughing when I came here, that I am only a ski trainer.

"At the beginning, when I realised that the players trusted me, I knew that we could achieve good results. We had some problems but that is the fact of Hungarian football . . . they can play very well or very poorly.

"I tried to improve the level of consistency."

He needs to strengthen the midfield and forward positions for even relative success in the Champions' Cup.

Will Kispest, having lured a western European manager of some stature, now do likewise with a player or two from a western European league?

Ferenc Puskas, caretaker manager of the national team for four matches, saw his final selection produce an inept performance, losing 2-0 to Iceland.

BRIAN **O'SULLIVAN**

ALBANIA Partizani do the double

PARTIZANI TIRANA completed the double of League and Cup for the seventh time, but the first since 1964, proving much too good for any opponents as the country struggles towards normality after years of political upheaval.

The double triumph — championship for the 15th time, Cup for the 13th — was very much due to coach Sulejman Starova, who is only 37.Starova won three major honours as a player with Partizani, and has now earned himself a reputation as an equally good operator off the field.

Edmund Dosti was top scorer in the country with 21 goals, and international defenders Adnand Ocelli, Ilir Shulku and Artan Bano also stood out.

Partizani topped the table with five points to spare, and won the Cup Final by beating Albpetrol 1-0, with a penalty by Afrim Myftari.

The national team are showing signs of improvement, although World Cup qualification was never much more than a dream. The latest defeat, 2-1 against the Republic of Ireland in Tirana, might well have been a win if luck had gone the other way.

Sokol Kushta gave Albania an early lead, but the Irish rallied to win despite a fine show by goalkeeper Perlat Musta, recalled after six years and now playing his club football in Romania, with Dinamo Bucharest.

Irish manager Jack Charlton summed up by saying: "A good result after a very difficult match."

His counterpart, Bejkush Birce, replied: "Good match, not a good result."

GEZIM **NUSHI**

ARMENIA Ararat's cup

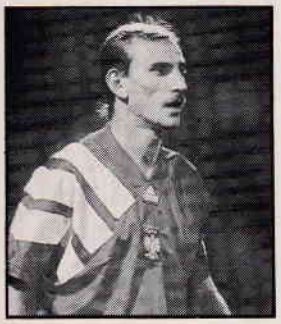
ARARAT YEREVAN won the Armenian Cup by beating Shirak Giumri 3-1 at the Razdan Stadium in Yerevan.

Shirak took the lead with a goal by Tahmazyan, but Mkhitaryan equalised on the half-hour.

The match remained evenly balanced until near the end, when Shahgeldyan scored twice in the space of seven minutes to give Ararat their victory.

Ararat had qualified for the final on away goals, drawing 2-2 and 1-1 with Homentmen Yerevan in the two-legged semi-final. Shirak beat Banants Abovyan 2-1 at home and drew the return 1-1.

POLAND Scandal: Legia may lose their title



THE season in Poland ended in a shambles, with allegations of bribery, two clubs claiming the title, and a drugs scandal.

Legia Warsaw and LKS Lodz were level on points going into the final matches, and won 6-0 and 7-1 respectively against Wisla Krakow and Olimpia Poznan.

Neither team had scored more than four in any game all season, and cries of "Fix" were heard throughout the land.

Eventually a newspaper report claimed that Legia had bribed Wisla players with 800,000,000 zlotys, about £31,000.

All four clubs involved in the last two matches have been fined £18,000 and will start next season with three points deducted. But the Federation decision to allow the results to stand caused further uproar.

Legia won the title on goal difference, 30 to 27, but they could still lose the championship.

One of their players, Roman Zub, failed a drugs test after a routine check at the end of a game.

Under current regulations the association have the right to award the match, which Legia won, to their opponents, Widzew Lodz.

This would move Widzew from fifth to fourth... and would force Legia down from first to third. A decision is still awaited.

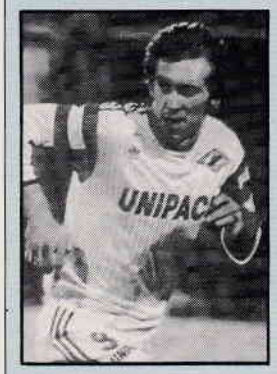
In the meantime, Legia are provisionally free to enter the Champions' Cup next season, with GKS Katowice in the Cup-winners' Cup and Lech Poznan and LKS Lodz in the UEFA Cup.

GKS won the Cup by beating Ruch Chorzow 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

This could prove to be the final performance by GKS captain Roman Szewczyk (above left), who is rumoured to be joining Hamburg.

JAMES **WALKER**

RUSSIA Spartak gates slide as foreign clubs swoop



MOSCOW SPARTAK seem to have no rivals in the Russian championship. The club also top the Moscow popularity list: according to official statistics, Spartak's games are attended by an average of . . . 7,000 spectators.

The figure is even less for Dynamo, Torpedo, Lokomotiv and even CSKA, a Champions League qualifier.

The days when Luzhniki Olympic stadium, where Spartak play, used to be filled to capacity are now gone. Today this 100,000-seat arena livens up only on Saturdays and Sundays when a flea market is open there.

This symbol of a new free enterprise society leaves piles of garbage all over the place, and a strong smell of urine.

The market was closed only on the weekends before Spartak's games in the Cup-winners' Cup, attended by President Boris Yeltsin.

"Spartak supports the President, the President supports Spartak" was a popular slogan of Mr. Yeltsin's campaign against the opposition during the spring referendum.

The President, however, was no connoisseur of football. Having appeared in the dressing room after Spartak's game with Feyenoord he surprised everybody with his warm greetings for the team's physician.

Evidently Yeltsin mistook him for Spartak's manager, Oleg Romantsev.

Now Romantsev's main concern is how to keep his team together for the next season's Champions' Cup.

Playmakers Victor Onopko and Igor Lediakhov as well as six other players, including 18-year-old Vladimir Bestchastnykh, have lucrative foreign offers.

Midfielder Andrei Piatnitsky (above left) , overall top scorer of the last Cup-winners' Cup, could be the one to start the exodus. According to the Vitesse authorities, if he decides to leave Spartak, he will be most welcome in Holland.

Piatnitsky, undoubtedly Spartak's best player this season, was not known internationally until recently, due to his reluctance to play for the Russian national team.

Although Russian by origin, he comes from Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan where his family still lives.

He is under strong pressure from local fans and officials who would like him to join the undermanned Uzbeki national squad.

Many foreigners now play for Russian clubs.

The national championship's top scoring list is headed by Gocha Gogrichiani, a Georgian striker of Sochi Zhemchuzhina.

VICTOR **GUSEV**

BULGARIA

LEVSKI are the champions at the end of a worrying season for the game in Bulgaria.

World Cup qualification is unlikely, though the campaign had begun well in Finland and Israel.

Spring brought defeat in Vienna and only a home draw with Israel and a home win over Finland.

Exportation of the best players resulted in much dissent when the national team gather and naturally weakened international performances as well as domestic soccer.

Clubs are under-financed, rarely sponsored and threatened by strikes, falling gates and excessive demands by players who do not wish to stop at home.

The richer are getting richer and thus CSKA will join Levski in Europe, while the two Plovdiv clubs, Lokomotiv and Botev, will be the UEFA representatives.

Domestic football badly needs one or more of the four to have a lengthy run if fans are to have much to look forward to.

TABLES

AUSTRIA — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria Wien	36	22	6	8	81	35	36
Salzburg	36	20	10	6	69	33	36
Admira Wacker	36	17	6	13	72	54	28
Rapid Wien	36	15	10	11	53	51	27
Innsbruck	36	14	12	10	63	43	26
St Polten	36	9	16	11	51	61	23
Sportclub	36	14	8	14	47	67	23
Vorwarts Steyr	36	10	9	17	37	53	18

BULGARIA — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski	30	22	6	2	76	28	50
CSKA	30	17	8	5	66	31	42
Botev	30	16	6	8	53	33	38
Lok. Plovdiv	30	16	5	9	57	29	37
Lok. Sofia	30	11	13	6	52	39	35
Pirin	30	13	7	10	33	32	33
Etar	30	12	9	9	36	40	33
Lok. GO	30	11	9	10	35	36	31
Chernomorets	30	11	8	11	34	31	30
Beroe	30	10	8	12	29	35	28
Yantra	30	10	6	14	38	51	26
Spartak	30	8	8	14	30	48	24
Dobrudja	30	9	4	17	31	56	22
Slavia	30	8	5	17	39	56	21
Haskovo	30	6	5	19	32	65	17
Sliven	30	6	1	23	26	57	13

CZECHOSLOVAKIA — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta	30	23	2	5	66	24	48
Slavia	30	18	7	5	70	28	43
Slovan	30	17	4	7	61	30	42
Dunajska Streda	30	16	5	9	46	36	37
Sigma Olomouc	30	14	7	9	44	38	35
Inter	30	14	3	13	46	42	31
FC Boby Brno	30	13	5	12	40	51	31
Banik Ostrava	30	10	11	9	47	38	31
Tatran Presov	30	9	8	13	42	40	28
Hradec Kralove	30	10	7	13	32	36	27
TJ Vitkovice	30	9	9	12	30	44	27
FC Nitra	30	6	13	10	27	38	25
Budejovice	30	9	5	16	36	39	23
Bohemians	30	5	9	16	23	53	19
Dukla Prague	30	7	5	18	38	74	19
Spartak Trnava	30	3	10	17	24	60	16

ALBANIA — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizani	30	17	9	4	53	22	43
SK Teuta	30	15	8	7	32	21	38
Besa	30	14	9	7	42	22	37
Vllaznia	30	15	7	8	44	26	37
Elbasani	30	12	7	11	36	32	31
D. Tirana	30	10	9	11	32	33	28
Apolonia	30	9	10	11	41	43	28
Lushnja	30	10	8	12	30	35	28
Albpetrol	30	10	8	12	38	48	28
Laci	30	11	6	13	26	37	28
FK Tirana	30	7	13	10	24	28	27
Sopoti	30	9	9	12	36	41	27
Flamurtari	30	8	11	11	28	34	27
Kastrioti	30	8	10	12	29	32	26
Tomori	30	11	3	16	28	53	25
Pogradeci	30	8	5	17	26	38	21

UKRAINE — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kiev Dynamo	30	18	8	4	59	14	44
Dnipro	30	18	8	4	51	20	44
Chernomorets	30	17	4	9	43	31	38
Shakhtyor	30	11	12	7	44	32	34
Metalist	30	12	7	11	37	34	31
Karpaty	30	10	10	10	37	38	30
Metalurg	30	10	9	11	38	35	29
Kryvbas	30	8	11	11	27	40	27
Kremin	30	8	11	11	23	40	27
Bukovina	30	9	8	13	27	32	26
Tavria	30	11	4	15	30	39	26
Volyn	30	10	6	14	37	54	26
Nyva	30	8	9	13	22	25	25
Torpedo	30	9	7	14	32	36	25
Veres	30	9	6	15	29	39	24
Zorya	30	10	4	16	26	46	24

POLAND — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Legia Warsaw	34	21	7	6	56	26	49
LKS Lodz	34	19	11	4	60	33	49
Lech Poznan	34	17	13	4	70	29	47
Ruch Chorzow	34	19	6	9	52	27	44
Widzew Lodz	34	16	11	7	60	42	43
Stal Mielec	34	12	15	7	41	28	39
Pogon Szczecin	34	15	9	10	35	33	39
GKS Katowice	34	13	11	10	52	36	37
Gornik Zabrze	34	11	13	10	43	40	35
Wisla Krakow	34	12	10	12	49	43	34
S. Tarnobrzeg	34	11	9	14	39	42	31
Zaglebie Lubin	34	10	10	14	48	41	30
Z. Bydgoszcz	34	12	6	16	41	60	30
Hutnik Krakow	34	8	13	13	40	46	29
Szombierki Bytom	34	8	7	19	31	59	23
Slask Wroclaw	34	9	5	20	33	74	23
Olimpia Poznan	34	7	7	20	28	56	21
Jag. Bialystock	34	2	5	27	28	91	9

LITHUANIA — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ekranas	27	20	6	1	50	8	46
Zhalgiris	27	18	7	1	54	13	43
Paneris	27	16	4	7	53	29	36
Sirius	27	11	9	7	41	29	31
Banga	27	11	5	11	30	28	27
Romar	27	11	4	12	27	27	26
Aras	27	8	8	11	26	33	24
Gatiajinis Vilkas	27	5	8	14	25	33	18

UKRAINE

Dynamo are kings again

GOAL difference decided the championship in Ukraine, with Kiev Dynamo taking the title from Dnepr Dnepropetrovsk and so completing the League-Cup double.

Dynamo beat Lvov Karpaty 2-1 in the Cup Final, and won the League with a scoring margin of 45 to Dnepr's 31, after both had finished with 18-8-4 records, 44 points from 30 games.

There was little to choose between the 16 clubs, with only 20 points between top and bottom and 62 of the 240 matches being drawn.

When Dynamo lost to Anderlecht of Belgium on a 7-2 aggregate in the UEFA Cup, coach Anatoly Puzach lost his job and was replaced by Mikhail Formenko, who had played sweeper for the club in the 1970s.

The change seems to have worked very well.

Sergei Gusev of Chernomorets Odessa was top scorer, with 17 goals.

Fans may not see much more of him — "I dream of playing abroad even for a minor club," he says.

National coach Oleg Bazilevich, formerly in charge of Kiev, is now preparing for the European Championship in 1986.

LITHUANIA

LITTLE-KNOWN Ekranas caused a surprise by winning the Lithuanian title for the first time.

They took 46 points from 27 games, with 50 goals scored and only eight conceded.

Ekranas, from the small northern town of Panevejis, lost only once, in their fifth match, and went on to overtake the favourites, Zhalgiris.

Unfortunately their achievement was somewhat devalued because the Football Federation decided to change the format of the championship.

They began with 14 clubs, but chanced to eight — after 13 games had been played. The LEF then ruled that there would be a ten-club system next season, only to change yet again and decide on 12.

VLADIMIR **KALINKOVICH**

ROMANIA

All change at the top

WHILE Championship and Cup are among the last in Europe to be concluded, the Federation have been swift to tackle various questions off the field.

The 5-2 defeat by Czechoslovakia in Kosice meant that chances of participation in World Cup '94 were beginning to slip away.

They now hinge on winning in the Faroes (possible but not the warmest of stages for depressed Latins), defeating a rampant Belgium at home (also feasible, though far from simple), at least not losing in Cardiff (far from easy), and hoping that results elsewhere are helpful.

So the Federation got moving, with no half measures! The whole technical staff were sacked — national coach and selector Cornel Dinu, his assistant, "Gino" Jorgulescu, Under-21 manager Ioan Moldovan, and goalkeeper-trainer Necula Raducano.

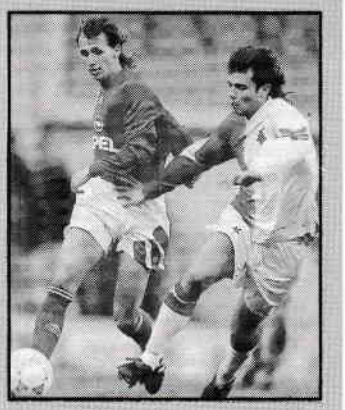
The FRF president Mirceu Sandu, put his neck on or near the block with these decisions, saying that as Dinu's employer he had to accept part of the responsibility for bad performances by the team.

Sandu then went on to tender his resignation, which the Executive Committee now have to debate.

Former Dinamo coach Mircea Lucescu is tipped to succeed Dinu. Other possibles include Steaua's Anghel Jordanescu and old hand Emerich Jenei, sacked in the spring from his job in charge of the unsuccessful Hungarian national team.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Sparta win two titles but fail at a third



SPARTA PRAGUE finished on top of the last "All Czech and Slovak" League after 73 years, but failed to pull off a treble.

After defeating FC Boby in the Czech Cup, competed for by clubs in Bohemia and Moravia, Sparta (right) had to face Kosice in the Czecho-Slovak Cup and lost 5-1.

This was their biggest defeat since the dismal showing against Steaua in the Champions' Cup two years ago.

Qualification for Europe's premier competition in 1993-94 had been assured by then, and the new set-up may well prove less demanding.

Slavia Prague, five points behind and briefly a threat to Sparta, compete in the UEFA Cup after a season in which the reconstruction of "Eden" was paramount.

Even so the team scored 70 goals, more than Sparta and Slovan, and over twice as many as seven teams lower down.

Sigma Olomouc, fifth, and Banik Ostrava, sixth, will not be bringing European football to Moravia next season, while Ceske Budejovice, Dukla Prague and Bohemians will be aiming to do better in the new Czech League.

Internationally there is still the World Cup in the US to play for.

Defeating Romania 5-2 in Kosice put the "Czech and Slovak Representation" back in contention.

Qualifying will depend, probably, on winning in Cardiff and Brussels.

BOB **VAUGHAN**

SLOVAKIA

Slavia snatch success

NECK AND NECK to the very last . . . but Slavia took the title.

Slovan could not score enough goals at Vitkovice on the last day of the season, drawing 2-2, while Slavia were suffering their fifth defeat of the season, 4-3 at Olomouc.

Peter Dubovsky, however, added to his tally twice to finish top scorer, one ahead of Pavel Kuka (Slavia).

Slovan, third, and DAC Dunajska Streda, fourth, were the best-placed clubs from Slovakia.

The former qualified automatically for the UEFA Cup and DAC have been subsequently admitted. Kosice will take part in the Cup-winners' Cup.

The FA in Bratislava are now getting on with organising the new Slovak National Football League.

Slovan, DAC, Inter, Presov, Nitra and Trnava will be joined by Kosice, Banska Bystrica, Zilina, Prievidza, Humenne and Lok Kosice.

Decision day was the 30th weekend of the Slovak Championship, when qualification depended on the Senen-Humenne and FC-Lok games.

At the foot of the table, Senica's 2-1 home win over Jelsava could not prevent their being relegated to the new regional set-up below what will now really be a Slovak National League.

BOB **VAUGHAN**

PUBLISHED JULY 1993

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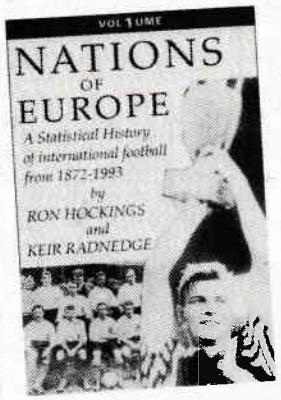
NATIONS OF EUROPE

by R. Hockings and Keir Radnedge



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MARK GLEESON reviews progress in the club competitions

JINXED!
Wydad the latest holders to flop

THE curse of the African Champions' Cup has struck again — and holders Wydad Casablanca are out.

No club since Zaire's TP Englebert in 1968 has been able to make a successful defence of the Cup, and Wydad's elimination kept up the sequence.

Wydad were beaten 5-4 on aggregate by Nigeria's Stationery Stores, who came from two down to ensure a quarter-final place.

The Moroccans, loaded with World Cup players, looked comfortably placed after a 3-1 home win in the first leg, but Stores quickly worked off the deficit in the return, and Fatisu's goal in the last minute gave them a 4-1 home win to keep alive Nigeria's hopes of a first Champions' Cup title.

Their reward is a pairing with AS Sogara of Gabon, the least experienced team left in the quarter-finals.

Sogara beat 1991 winners Club Africain of Tunisia 3-2 on aggregate, with Nigerian striker Ipaye Wasiu taking his tournament total to four goals.

Egypt's Zamalek and Asante Kotoko of Ghana are seeking a record-equalling third title.

Zamalek had to fight all the way against newcomers Kaizer Chiefs of South Africa, whose inexperience caught them out in the first true north-south clash.

Chiefs were two up at one stage in the first leg in Johannesburg, but gave away a silly goal, and played into the Egyptians' hands by adopting defensive tactics in Cairo, where Zamalek got through on the away goals rule.

Kotoko strolled through against Morocco's other representatives, Kawkab Marrakesh.

Nakivubo Villa of Uganda, who were beaten finalists two years ago, served notice with their 8-2 aggregate thrashing of Madagascar's AS Sotema.

ASEC Abidjan are another side with winning pedigree, battling past Costa do Sol of Mozambique to set up a quarter-final with the Ugandans.

The second round of the Cup-winners' Cup provided the most goals and no real surprises.

Africa Sports, going for a second successive title, beat Semassi Sokode of Togo 7-0 on aggregate, but South Africa's Jomo Cosmos remain the most prolific team.

They have scored 19 goals in six matches and are the only remaining side from South Africa left in African club competition in the country's first year of participation. They beat Prince Louis of Burundi 7-3 on aggregate in the second round.

JS Kabylie also proved far from shy in front of goal against Dragons Oueme, although they almost let a four-goal cushion slip.

Cameroon's Olympic Mvolye, full of experienced internationals, also tried to come back from a four-goal deficit against El Kanemi Warriors of Nigeria, but found the task beyond their reach.

Egypt's Al Ahly, who won the ACWC in 1983, '84 and '85, beat Arsenal of Lesotho 1-0 home and away, with Hossam Hassan (above) getting both goals.

Canon Yaounde's shock 2-0 defeat in the CAF Cup, against Angola's Atletico Sport Aviacao, means the World Cup quarter-finalists have now gone two seasons without a side in the final eight of any African club tournament.

1993 AFRICAN CHAMPIONS' CUP

Preliminary round — 1st / 2nd

St George (Eth) v Malindi (Tan) 1-1 0-1
(Malindi 2-1 on agg)
LCS Gunners (Bot) v Kaizer Chiefs (SA) 0-1 0-5
(Chiefs 6-0 on agg)
Kiyovu Sport (Rwa) w/o v Bata Bullets (Mal) ....withdrew
Matlama (Les) v Sunrise SC (Mau) 2-1 1-3
(Sunrise 4-3 on agg)
Costa do Sol (Moz) v Ramblers (Nam) 2-1 0-0
(Costa do Sol 2-1 on agg)
Mbabane High. (Swa) v AC Sotema (Mad) 0-1 0-2
(AC Sotema 3-0 on agg)
Spt Bissau (GB) withdrew v Etoile Filante (BF) ....walkover
Djoliba (Mali) v ASC Sonader (Mau) 1-0 1-1
(Djoliba won 2-1 on agg)
LPRC Oilers (Lib) w/o v Etoile Filante (Togo) ....withdrew
Akonangui (EG) v TP USCA (CAR) 1-2 0-2
(USCA 4-1 on agg)
Primiero Agosto (Ang) w/o v B. Borgou (Ben) ....withdrew
ASAC Ndiambour (Sen) v Sp. Mindelense (CVI) 1-1 1-2
(Ndiambour 3-2 on agg)
Sahel SC (Niger) v Tout Puissant ES (Chad) 2-0 2-0
(Sahel 4-0 on agg)

First round

Malindi v Zamalek (Egy) 0-1 0-4
(Zamalek 5-0 on agg)
Kiyovu Sport v Kaizer Chiefs 2-5 1-4
(Chiefs 9-3 on agg)
Sunrise v Al Hilal (Sud) 2-0 1-0
(Sunrise 3-0 on agg)
AFC Leopards (Ken) v Nkana Red Devils (Zam) 1-1 0-1
(Red Devils 2-1 on agg)
Nakivubo Villa (Uga) v Vital 'O (Bur) 1-01-2 (2-2 on agg, Villa won on away goals)
AC Sotema w/o v Black Aces (Zim) ....withdrew
Costa do Sol w/o v Union Milambe (Zai) ....disqualified
Djoliba v ASEC Abidjan (IC) 1-1 0-2
(ASEC 3-1 on agg)
KAC Marrakesh (Mor) v Horoya (Gui) 5-0 0-1
(KAC 5-1 on agg)
Sahel SC v Asante Kotoko (Gha) 0-0 0-2
(Asante 2-0 on agg)
Etoile Filante v Mouloudia d'Oran (Alg) 1-0 0-2
(Mouloudia 2-1 on agg)
Primiero Agosto v Racing Bafoussam (Cam) 2-2 0-2
(Racing 4-2 on agg)
LPRC Oilers disqualified v Club Africain (Tun) ....walkover
AS Sogara (Gab) v Etoile du Congo (Con) 2-0 0-0
(Sogara 2-0 on agg)
TP USCA v Stationery Stores (Nig) 1-3 2-2
(Stars 5-3 on agg)
ASC Ndiamdour v Wydad (Mor, holders) 2-1 1-3
(Wydad 4-3 on agg)

Second Round

Kaizer Chiefs v Zamalek 2-1 0-1
(2-2 on agg, Zamalek on away goals)
Nkana Red Devils v Sunrise SC ....postponed
AC Sotema v Nakivubo Villa 0-2 2-6
(Villa 8-2 on agg)
ASEC Abidjan v Costa do Sol 2-0 1-1
(ASEC 3-1 on agg)
Asante Kotoko v KAC Marrakesh 3-0 0-1
(Asante 3-1 on agg)
Racing Bafoussam v Mouloudia d'Oran 1-0 0-2
(Mouloudia 2-1 on agg)
AS Sogara v Club Africain 1-0 2-2
(AS Sogara 3-2 on agg)
Wydad Casablanca v Stationery Stores 3-1 1-4
(Stores 5-4 on agg)

Quarter-finals

Zamalek v Mouloudia d'Oran
AS Sogara v Stationery Stores
Nakivubo Villa v ASEC Abidjan
Nkana Red Devils/Sunrise SC v Asante Kotoko
1st leg: *03-05 Sept.* ***2nd leg:*** *17-19 Sept.*

1993 AFRICAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Preliminary round

Liverpool (Nam) v GF Tafic (Bot) 1-1 1-0
(Liverpool won 2-1 on agg)
Jomo Cosmos (SA) v Denver Sundows (Swa) 1-0 6-0
(Cosmos 7-0 on agg)
Silver Strikers (Malawi) v Arsenal (Les) 0-2 1-2
(Arsenal 4-1 on agg)
Pamba (Tan) v Mukura Victory (Rwa) 0-1 2-1
(2-2 on agg, Pamba won on away goals)
Tempete Mocaf (CAR) v Petro Atletico (Ang) 1-2 1-1
(Petro 3-2 on agg)
ASC SNIM (Mauritania) w/o v Benfica (GB) ....withdrew
Semassi Sokode (Togo) w/o v Diamond Stars (SL) ....withdrew
Gazelle (Chad) v El Nguema (EG) 1-0 0-2
(El Nguema 2-1 on agg)
Hafia (Gui) v Stade Malien (Mali) 2-0 0-1
(Hafia 2-1 on agg)

First round

Daring Club Motema Pembe (Zai) v Liverpool 6-1 —
(Liverpool disqualified, Motema Pembe walkover)
CARA Brazzaville (Con) v Petro Atletico 1-0 1-3
(Atletico 3-2 on agg)
Kabwe Warriors (Zam) v Prince Louis (Bur) 2-1 1-1*
(= abandoned, Prince Louis w/o, Kabwe disqualified)*
COSFAP (Mad) v Jomo Cosmos 0-2 2-3
(Cosmos 5-2 on agg)
Clube de Gaza (Moz) v Arsenal 2-2 1-1
(3-3 on agg, Arsenal win on away goals)
Al Ahly (Egy) v Pamba 5-0 0-0
(Al Ahly 5-0 on agg)
Wankie (Zim) v Kenya Breweries (Ken) 0-2 1-1
(Breweries 3-1 on agg)
El Merreikh (Sud) v Express FC (Uga) 3-0 0-2
(El Merreikh 3-2 on agg)
JS Kabylie (Alg) v ASC SNIM 8-1 3-1
(JS Kabylie 11-2 on agg)
Dragons Oueme (Ben) v Olympic (Niger) 4-0 2-2
(Dragons 6-2 on agg)
Stade Tunisien (Tun) v Hafia 1-0 0-0
(Stade 1-0 on agg)
Voradep (Gha) v US Goreenne (Sen) 0-0 0-1
(Goreenne 1-0 on agg)
Africa Spts (IC, holders) w/o v NPA Anchors (Lib) ....disq
Delta (Gab) v Semassi Sokode 1-0 0-2
(Semassi 2-1 on agg)
El Kanemi Warriors (Nigeria) v El Nguema 4-0 0-0
(Warriors 4-0 on agg)
Olympic Mvolye (Cam) v RC Kadiogo (BF) 1-0 1-1
(Olympic 2-1 on agg)

Second round

Daring Club Motema Pembe v Petro Atletico 0-0 2-2
(2-2 on agg, Motema Pembe on away goals)
Prince Louis v Jomo Cosmos 3-3 0-4
(Cosmos 7-3 on agg)
Arsenal v Al Ahly 0-1 0-1
(Al Ahly 2-0 on agg)
Kenya Breweries v El Merreikh 1-1 0-1
(El Merreikh 2-1 on agg)
JS Kabylie v Dragons Oueme 4-0 0-3
(JS Kabylie 4-3 on agg)
Stade Tunisien v US Goreenne 2-0 0-1
(Stade Tunisien 2-1 on agg)
Africa Sports v Semassi Sokode 4-0 3-0
(Africa Sports 7-0 on agg)
El Kanemi Warriors v Olympic Mvolye 4-0 0-3
(Warriors 4-3 on agg)

Quarter-finals

El Kanemi Warriors v Stade Tunisien
El Merreikh v Al Ahly
Daring Club Motema Pembe v Jomo Cosmos
Africa Sports v JS Kabylie
1st leg: 03-05 Sept. ***2nd leg:*** 17-19 Sept.

1993 CAF CUP

Preliminary round

Insurance (Eth) v Rayon Sports (Rwa) 2-1 1-1
(Insurance 3-2 on agg)
Desp. Travadores (CVI) v ASC Air Mauritanie 0-0 0-0
(0-0 on agg, Air Mauritanie 6-5 on pens)
Entente Deux (Togo) w/o v UDIB (GB) ....disqualified
Tourbillon (Chad) v Les Anges de Fatima (CAR) 1-1 3-2
(Tourbillon 4-3 on agg)
Linare (Les) v Young Ones (Nam) 1-1 2-4
(Young Ones 5-3 on agg)

First round

Insurance v Merreikh El Obayed (Sud) 0-0 1-1
(1-1 on agg, Insurance on away goals)
Young Ones w/o v Profund Warriors (Zam) ....withdrew
Manzini Wand. (Swa) w/o v CAPS Utd (Zim) ....withdrew
Simba (Tan) v Ferroviario de Maputo (Moz) 0-0 1-1
(1-1 on agg, Simba on away goals)
Coffee SC (Uga) v Gor Mahia (Ken) 0-1 1-0
(1-1 on agg, Gor Mahia 5-4 on pens)
MDC United (Malawi) v Hellenic (SA) 1-1 0-6
(Hellenic 7-1 on agg)
Jeanne d'Arc (Sen) v USM Harrach (Alg) 0-0 1-6
(El Harrach 6-1 on agg)
FDA Forester (Lib) v Hearts of Oak (Gha) 0-2 1-5
(Hearts of Oak 7-1 on agg)
ASC Air Mauritanie v ASFAG (Gui) 0-1 3-1
(Air Mauritanie 3-2 on agg)
Zumunta (Niger) v ASFA Yennega (BF) 1-1 2-0
(Zumunta 3-1 on agg)
Tourbillon v Canon Yaounde (Cam) 0-0 0-3
(Canon Yaounde 3-0 on agg)
FC Scibe (Zai) v Atletico Sport Aviacao (Ang) 0-0 0-2
(ASA 2-0 on agg)
Stella Abidjan (IC) w/o v Kambui Eagles (SL) ....withdrew
Shooting Stars (Nig) v Sigui de Kayes (Mali) 2-1 0-1
(2-2 on agg, Sigui de Kayes on away goals)
Petrosport (Con) v Renquins Atlantique (Ben) 3-0 0-1
(Petrosport 3-1 on agg)
Entente Deux v Mbilinga (GB) 0-3 2-2
(Mbilinga 5-2 on agg)

Second Round

Young Ones v Insurance 2-1 0-7
(Insurance 8-2 on agg)
Simba v Manzini Wanderers 1-0 1-0
(Simba 2-0 on agg)
Hellenic v Gor Mahia 3-1 0-2
(3-3 on agg, Gor Mahia on away goals)
Hearts of Oak v USM Harrach 3-2 2-3
(5-5 on agg, USM Harrach won 6-5 on pens)
Zumunta v ASC Air Mauritanie 2-0 2-1
(Zumunta 4-1 on agg)
Atletico Sport Aviacao v Canon Yaounde 0-0 2-0
(ASA 2-0 on agg)
Sigui de Kayes v Stella Abidjan 0-2 0-3
(Stella 5-0 on agg)
Mbilinga v Petrosport 3-0 2-0
(Mbilinga 5-0 on agg)

Quarter-finals

Stella Abidjan v Mbilinga
Insurance v Zumunta
Simba v USM Harrach
Atletico Sport Aviacao v Gor Mahia
1st leg: 03-05 Sept. ***2nd leg:*** 17-19 Sept.

Maradona . . . with the World Cup after Argentina's victory in 1986.

BY GRAHAM **TURNER**

goodbye

MARADONA made 26 appearances for Sevilla, being sent off once, against Tenerife, and substituted three times. He scored only five goals, two from penalties and one from a free-kick.

The only goals he obtained from open play came in matches 15 and 16, against Sporting Gijon and Albacete.

THIS TIME it really is adios to Diego Armando Maradona.

And, just as he did with his former European clubs, Barcelona and Napoli, he left Sevilla by the back door.

There was no triumphant farewell to one of the world's greatest footballers. He was not carried shoulder-high off the pitch to a standing ovation.

There were no throngs at the airport to bid him an emotional goodbye.

He ended the season having played one full game in over two months (a 5-0 defeat by Real Madrid) and, as usual, biting the hands that had been feeding him.

Maradona's send-off could hardly have been shabbier.

After being taken off in the 54th minute of the 1-1 home draw with relegated Burgos he threw down his captain's armband, directed a foul mouthful at coach Carlos Bilardo (above) and, on his way out of the stadium, told reporters: "This is something we must sort out man to man. But I don't think he is one."

Sevilla had the last word. They sacked him on June 30, a few hours before his contract expired, after having revealed that a firm of private detectives had been keeping tabs on Maradona's private life, which seemingly consumed more calories than his sporadic efforts on the pitch.

The Walker agency, perhaps aptly named in view of his recent performances, produced a report which included video-taped evidence of his exploits on Seville's Sunset Strip, although the hours he dedicated to the dolce vita were apparently better suited to Sunrise Strip.

The club rate this as grounds for dismissal and are refusing to pay Dutch company Septor Holdings the last instalment of £700,000 on Maradona's wages. Why the cash has to be paid into a Dutch company is another fascinating matter for the taxman to ponder.

Napoli also are watching the proceedings with a degree of anxiety. They agreed to transfer Maradona to Sevilla for $7.5million, of which $4.5million is still outstanding, in instalments due to be paid next month and in February and September of next year.

Maradona's earnings have not fallen into the chicken-feed category, either.

Sevilla paid him £280,000 when he signed last September; £950,000 in November; £875,000 in February plus a top-of-the range Mercedes and half the rent of the luxury villa hired from bullfighter Espartaco — which worked out at £3,335 per month.

On top of that he has received the living allowances and bonuses paid to the other members of the squad. In short, he has added £3million to the wage bill.

Sevilla gambled heavily on helping Maradona's rehabilitation after his 15-month ban for drug use. The initial wave of season-ticket sales led them to believe he could even be profitable. Now vice-president Jose Maria Del Nido admits that, even withholding the final wage payment, the club have lost £1.3million on the player. Hence their huge demands when Urawa Red Diamonds and Birmingham City started sniffing around.

Maradona slipped home to Buenos Aires saying: "It's practically definite that I'm not going to play any more."

Football fans all over the world must feel disappointed. One of the best players of all

time was given a golden chance to re-emerge as a matured ambassador for the game. Instead, he simply confirmed that, at 32, he is still the spoilt brat who can imagine no better use for the Hand of God than cheating.

As he had done with Josep Lluis Nunez at Barcelona and Corrado Ferlaino at Napoli, Maradona took next to no time in turning against the Sevilla president Luis Cuervas.

He walked out during the Copa de Rey tie against Valencia and welched on his agreement with the club that he should take part in only one of Argentina's two internationals in February.

While in Argentina he complained that Sevilla's bonuses were insufficient, and delayed his flight back so that he had to be flown in a private yet from Madrid to Logrono where, having arrived three hours before kick-off, he hardly moved against Logrones.

He sulked when Seville's Easter Week festivities forced kick-off time to be brought forward to midday. "I hate getting up early," he moaned all week, and then produced such an anonymous performance that one local reporter suggested Maradona was visible only in artificial light.

He was booked six times, sent off once and, after the Andalusian derby in Cadiz, started a massive brawl by trading insults and punches until he was restrained by team-mates and police, then warned a Cadiz player that "anyone who insults my family is a dead man".

Maradona missed the plane to Barcelona for an anti-drugs match organised by Johan Cruyff, and when he was ordered to undergo a routine dope test after a game, he insisted it was not because the number 10 had been drawn out of the hat but because there was a conspiracy against him.

The Spanish Federation are still considering a suitable punishment for his description of them as the sort of "Mafia that I thought only existed in Italy."

Then there were the red lights. Not just those in the district where much of the private detectives' report was compiled, but also the four of them he jumped at over 100mph while being followed by police cars through Seville.

He was charged with speeding, failing to heed police instructions, dangerous driving and insulting a police officer. "I had the music up very loud," was his feeble explanation.

In the light of this, smashing up only two cars in nine months was perhaps not bad going after all.

And amid all this, he was playing truant from training sessions and proclaiming his desire to join a club "which would let me train a couple of days and turn out at the weekend".

Carlos Bilardo, who had been his mentor for the best part of a decade, initially defended Maradona's "personalised training schedule" but ended up admitting he did not know when Diego would turn up.

The ultimate reward for Bilardo's patience was the outburst when he ordered Maradona's substitution during the match against Burgos.

Another of his tormented mentors, Cesar Luis Menotti, summed it all up by saying: "Maradona is neither physically nor mentally capable of playing football for any serious club anywhere in the world."

For lovers of football, that truth hurts.

Maradona . . . in the colours of Napoli against Sampdoria (above), Boca Juniors (above right) and Barcelona.

ain

This time **Maradona's** really gone

Maradona . . . cheating with his "Hand of God" goal against England at the 1986 World Cup (left), weeping after the 1990 World Cup Final defeat (right) and walking when sent off in the 1982 World Cup against Brazil (below).

A Tanning and a Panning

THIS HAS not been a very good summer for the England national team.

Their hopes of reaching the final stage of the World Cup received a severe set-back, making their US Cup '93 dress rehearsal look like a waste of time, energy and money.

The summer tour began in Europe with a below-par performance against Poland in Katowice, a fortunate 1-1 draw, and was followed by a shambolic display in Norway, where Egil Olsen's side won 2-0.

Manager Graham Taylor was pilloried in the English media for his tactical decisions, which included using three central defenders against Norway to counter the threat from one player, for his choice of personnel and for failing to motivate his team.

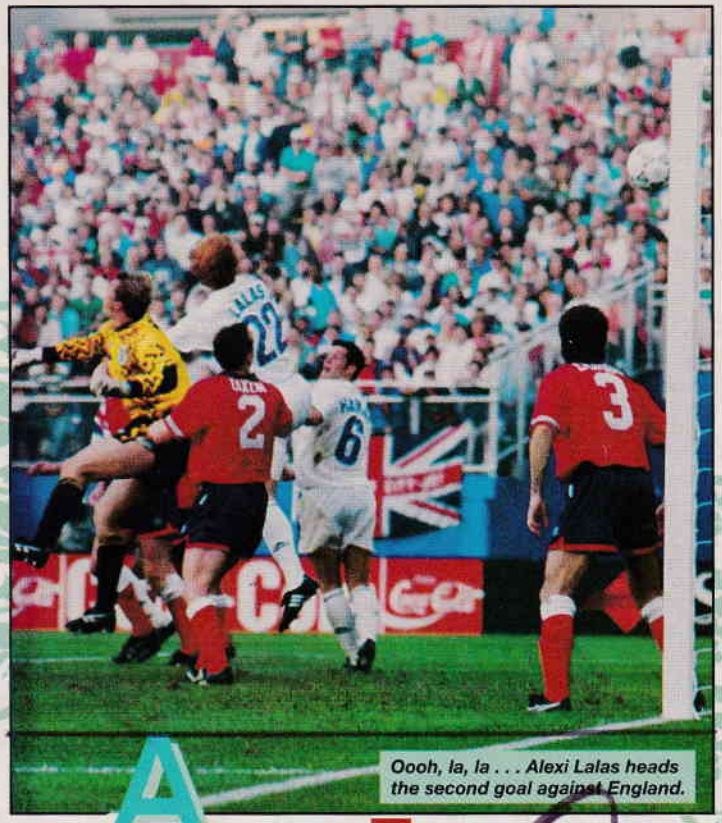
From there the touring company moved on to Broadway — just off it, to Foxboro — for the first of three games in the US Cup '93.

Foxboro is the home of the New England Patriots American Football team, and, if ever Taylor needed his new England to put in an afternoon of patriotic endeavour, this was it.

Sadly, the Americans had not read the script and deservedly administered a 2-0 tanning — the most embarrassing defeat for England since 1950, when the Americans also failed to learn their lines and won 1-0.

England's display was even worse than the one they had given in Oslo. The Americans, for all their technology, organisation and naked enthusiam, are still soccer minnows, there to be beaten by the great sharks from Europe and South America. This makes England's failure more worrying.

Of course, on another day Ian Wright would have scored at least a hat-trick, and Tony Meola would not have played like a goalkeeper hell-bent on showing Watford and Brighton how wrong they were not to give him a contract.



Oooh, la, la . . . Alexi Lalas heads the second goal against England.

But all the excuses in the world could not save Taylor and his team from another savaging, with calls for his resignation and changes to the team.

Taylor made four changes for the Brazil game, and suddenly England began to look like a team again. Tim Flowers had a fine debut in goal and the players in front of him played with far more fluidity and passion.

Having gone a goal up through David Platt, a 1-1 draw was perhaps a disappointing result, but Taylor took heart from holding the Brazilians, even if they also were shadows of their elegant predecessors.

Germany though, are always the same: unwaveringly steady, boringly reliable, highly effective and hugely successful. Taylor re-jigged his side once again — replacing Flowers with Nigel Martyn, bringing back John Barnes and giving Paul Merson his first start on the trip.

In front of 62,126 spectators in the sweltering Silverdome — the match was the first in US soccer history to rake in over $1 million in gate moneyalone — the result was a predictable 2-1 win for the Germans.

At the end of it, England's players looked as tired as their manager, a long season draining not only the physical strength needed to win matches, but also the mental desire.

But the tournament had, at least, given Taylor a chance to assess those players on the fringe of the squad and may have given him a clearer idea of who he will need if England are to make it to the biggest stage of all.

If things go Taylor's way, it could all look so different next September, when Poland visit Wembley for a World Cup qualifier England must win. If Stuart Pearce and Alan Shearer recover from injury, and if Paul Gascoigne can find his old form, then England will have a chance. But, in reviewing this summer tour, the best that can be said for it is that it was a box-office smash which was panned by the critics.

JOHN **KELLY**

TERRY OUT... is Ossie in?

DOMESTICALLY the summer scene has been dominated by the continuing internal strife at Tottenham and by the usual round of transfers, mostly centred on Nottingham.

Terry Venables, having lost his courtroom battle with Alan Sugar, lost his job as well and now faces financial ruin. He will appeal, of course, but his prospects seem bleak.

Sugar then appointed another former Spurs favourite, Ossie Ardiles (right), as manager, but this also raised controversy and anger. Ardiles had just taken West Bromwich Albion into the First Division and had verbally agreed to stay with the club. Then Spurs came in and he was on his way.

Albion have cried foul and lodged a protest with the Football League over what they regard as an illegal approach for one of their employees. That, too, is now likely to be scrutinised by the law-makers and the whole affair reflects badly on Spurs, who have been made to look like amateurs by all the ensuing publicity.

To cap it all, Neil Ruddock insists that he wants to move. Ruddock claims that Spurs reneged on an improved contract offer when Venables was fired and that he will not accept a new, smaller contract. Liverpool were the first to show interest in him, but were put off by the £2.8 million price tag for a player who cost only £750,000 from Southampton a year ago.

Graeme Souness has been out shopping, though, and his first recruit was Nigel Clough, free at last from his manager father's shadow, but costing £2 million . . . at the age of 27.

Forest, not surprisingly in view of their relegation to the First Division, paid £1.7 million for Millwall's Colin Cooper and a staggering fee — which could be almost £3 million depending on results — for Stan Collymore, who cost Southend a mere £150,000 from Crystal Palace last November.

Roy Keane also is on his way, having told new manager Frank Clark that he does not want to play in the First Division. This has triggered a three-way fight between Manchester United, Blackburn and Arsenal.

Keane has declared his wish to join United, but Alex Ferguson is reluctant to match Forest's £5 million asking price, because Keane will be out of contract in October, and free to leave for £3.5 million. Ferguson is hoping that he can persuade Keane, 22, to stay with Forest until October and then join United for the lower fee.

But Arsenal and Blackburn are still hopeful that they can persuade Britain's most wanted player to join them. Indeed, such is Arsenal's determination to make a big-name signing this summer that they have left a space in their squad to accomodate the newcomer.

Next season, all Premier League teams will have set squad numbers as well as players' names displayed on shirts. Arsenal have named their squad, but have left No. 16 vacant for Keane or possibly QPR winger Andy Sinton — one of the few successes of England's American excursion, and a long-time target for George Graham.

The numbering and naming undoubtedly will help the armchair viewer, but without a ban on transfers during the season, it is hard to see how the system can work properly.

What happens when a player moves during the season? Does he wear a shirt with somebody else's name and number? And what happens if a player comes through to claim a first-team place? Does he have to impersonate somebody else until he gets his own, customised shirt? Only time will tell.

All we can reliably say at this moment is that the kit manufacturers must be laughing their shirts, shorts and socks off at the prospect of selling even more expensive kits to impressionable kids who want Wright, Giggs or Rush on their shoulders . . . or, as was the case at Wembley recently, Sanderson on the front and Anderson on the back.

UEFA UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIP

Likely lads

EUROPEAN UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIP

England 93

18 – 25 JULY

EIGHT bands of happy hopefuls get together later this month for a festival of young soccer.

They are taking part in the European Under-18 Championship, with 14 matches being contested at eight venues in the space of a week.

All the matches are being played at Premier and Football League grounds in the Midlands area.

England qualify automatically as the host nation, with the seven survivors from the 14 nations who entered the qualifying tournament in April. England have won a record seven times, but not since 1980. Turkey, who won the title in Germany last year — their country's first major international victory — are in the other group.

Soccer historians have good reason to remember last year's events, because FIFA's new rule, banning goalkeepers from handling back-passes, came into force then for the first time.

Unfortunately England's preparations were disturbed by a dispute over three of the squad — Kevin Sharp, Jamie Forrester and Mark Tinkler of Leeds.

Manager Howard Wilkinson said that they needed a rest and withdrew them from training sessions and a trip to Scandinavia, which the FA were using in the build-up to the youth event.

Wilkinson claims that the FA have been hypocritical. The Blueprint for Football, produced by FA chief executive Graham Kelly, drew attention to the alarming number of young players suffering from stress injuries brought on by playing so often. Now, Wilkinson says that his lads are being expected to play for almost an entire year without a break.

"It's too much to ask kids like these to play football for 11 months of the year. They will become stale as well as risking the damage Kelly mentioned.

"Games are being played to benefit the leagues rather than the players.

"We can't turn the clock back to the days when kids simply kicked a ball around the park, but we are trying to recreate that situation. At Leeds we want lads to show freedom of expression — freedom from fear and the chance to exp-ress themselves."

Hopefully the Leeds kids will be in the squad. If so, Sharp and Forrester may well play against former Auxerre team-mates when England face France. Both had a spell in France after graduating from the FA School of Excellence at Lilleshall.

JOHN **KELLY**

Rested . . . Sharp.

Rested . . . Forrester.

● *TICKETS cost only £1 or £2, and entrance guarantees fans the chance of priority booking for the 1996 European Championship.*

1992-93 EUROPEAN UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS

Group 1

14.04.93	Holland v Denmark	2-1
12.05.93	Denmark v Holland	1-3
	Holland won 5-2 on agg	

Group 2

20.04.93	Portugal v Russia	2-1
11.05.93	Russia v Portugal	0-0
	Portugal won 2-1 on agg	

Group 3

07.04.93	Italy v Hungary	0-2
14.04.93	Hungary v Italy	0-1
	Hungary won 2-1 on agg	

Group 4

04.05.93	Turkey v Switzerland	2-1
19.05.93	Switzerland v Turkey	0-1
	Turkey won 3-1 on agg	

Group 5

04.05.93	Finland v France	3-4
18.05.93	France v Finland	2-2
	France won 6-5 on agg	

Group 6

07.04.93	Romania v Iceland	0-0
14.05.93	Iceland v Romania	0-1
	Romania won 1-0 on agg	

Group 7

21.04.93	Germany v Spain	0-0
13.05.93	Spain v Germany	5-2
	Spain won 5-2 on agg	

● *England qualify as host nation*

FIXTURES

Group 1

18.07.93	Hungary v Turkey	Sheff Weds
18.07.93	Portugal v Romania	Lincoln City
20.07.93	Portugal v Hungary	Lincoln City
20.07.93	Romania v Turkey	Nottm. Forest
22.07.93	Romania v Hungary	Derby County
22.07.93	Turkey v Portugal	Nottm. Forest

Group 2

18.07.93	England v France	Stoke City
18.07.93	Holland v Spain	Walsall
20.07.93	England v Holland	Walsall
20.07.93	Spain v France	Crewe
22.07.93	France v Holland	Stoke City
22.07.93	England v Spain	Walsall

Third-place play-off

25.07.93	2nd Gp A v 2nd Gp B	Nottm. F.

Final

25.07.93	1st Gp A v 1st Gp B	Nottm. F.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

1948	England
1949	France
1950	Austria
1951	Yugoslavia
1952	Spain
1953	Hungary
1954	Spain
1955	—
1956	—
1957	Austria
1958	Italy
1959	Bulgaria
1960	Hungary
1961	Portugal
1962	Romania
1963	England
1964	England
1965	East Germany
1966	Soviet Union & Italy
1967	Soviet Union
1968	Czechoslovakia
1969	Bulgaria
1970	East Germany
1971	England
1972	England
1973	England
1974	Bulgaria
1975	England
1976	Soviet Union
1977	Belgium
1978	Soviet Union
1979	Yugoslavia
1980	England
1981	West Germany
1982	Scotland
1983	France
1984	Hungary
1985	—
1986	East Germany
1987	—
1988	Soviet Union
1989	—
1990	Soviet Union
1991	—
1992	Turkey

● *The tournament was called the European Junior Championship from 1948 to '80, then became the European Youth Championship in 1981. Played annually until 1984, then every two years until 1992.*

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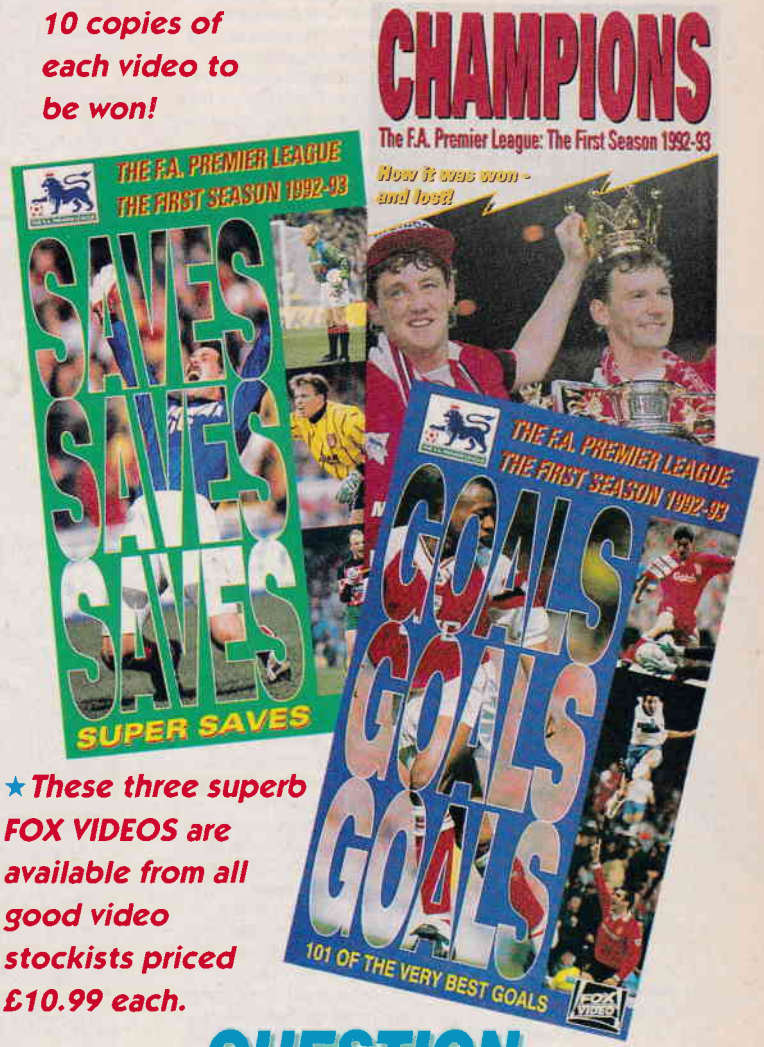

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Down the drain with too much strain

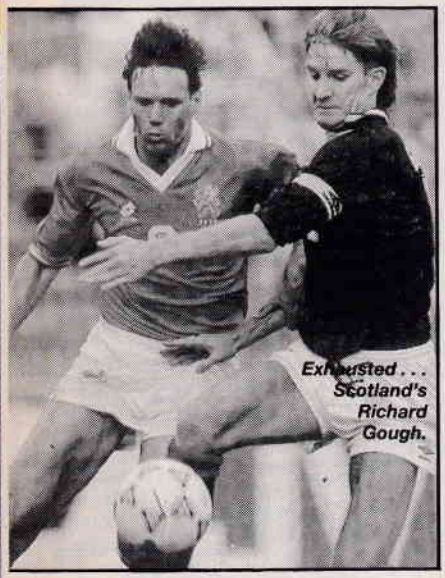
Scotland's schedule ruins national chances

THE hammering that was waiting to happen — the 5-0 thrashing by Portugal — effectively ended Scotland's bid to win a sixth successive place in the World Cup finals.

And nobody knows better than coach Andy Roxburgh where the blame lies: the Scottish league system left the nation's top players physically and mentally drained.

"It was said after Lisbon that we had a crisis . . . and I agree," said Roxburgh, who only steered Scotland to Italia '90 and led them to their first European Championship in Sweden last summer.

"Because of our participation in the European Finals last summer, our best players have not had a break for two years. Is it any wonder that we're in such a state?"



Exhausted . . . Scotland's Richard Gough.

A close examination of the congested fixture list and an understanding of the mechanics of the Scottish game, with a few rich clubs dominating the scene, underline Roxburgh's point.

Rangers were again champions, but the Scottish Premier Division season is 44 games long, much greater than any other European nation, and there is no mid-season break.

Rangers also won the Skol Cup, the Scottish Cup, and were only just pipped by Marseille for a place in the Champions' Cup Final.

That means 60-plus high-pressure games for the club's players, over and above international calls.

Rangers provided a sizeable chunk of Roxburgh's squad for Lisbon, largely because Rangers have the best and most successful Scottish players.

But they are not alone with that problem.

The runners-up in Scotland, Aberdeen, also reached the finals of the League Cup and Scottish Cup. They provide a good proportion of the Scotland squad, as do Hearts, semi-finalists in the Scottish Cup and quarter-finalists in the League Cup.

The demands on the players from these clubs is immense. There had to be a breaking point, and that was reached in Lisbon.

"Six games earlier, we were officially the fifth best team in Europe by virtue of our performance in the European Championship" added Roxburgh. "That was a status we had never achieved before.

"At roughly the same time, our Under-21s finished joint third in their UEFA tournament and our Under-16s lost only to Germany, the eventual winners, in their competition.

"Our problem, then, is not a lack of talent but an abuse of talent, and the evidence is in front of everyone's eyes. Players are being abused, particularly in terms of stress injuries."

The game in Scotland suffers because of the pressure-cooker atmosphere, especially in the Premier Division, where teams play each other four times.

There are very few games of a nothing-at-stake nature.

From September to May virtually every one has a bearing on championship, UEFA Cup places or relegation.

Every game is played at 100 mph with players constantly at boiling point, with no time for developing the skills so necessary on the wider international stage or the time necessary for full recovery from injuries caused simply by playing too much football.

"Our fixture list is congested, and the way we play is wrong, with players running about with gritted teeth and clattering into each other," said Roxburgh.

"We also play at the wrong time of year, in the worst of the weather. In Germany, with a comparable climate, they close down in the winter."

After the Lisbon fiasco, — the 5-0 score considerably flattered the Scots — Roxburgh gutted his team.

Nine of the 13 players on duty that night went, including Ally McCoist, who broke a leg.

"We witnessed the death of a team" Roxburgh said. "Some of the senior players were knackered. Now we must try for a rebirth."

When that will be is hard to forecast. Scotland went to Estonia with a youthful team short of international experience, and won 3-0.

But that result was better than the performance.

If Roxburgh is to enjoy the rebirth he hopes for, he must get the help he craves from the Scottish administrators.

That would mean restructuring the game to reduce the number of league fixtures, possibly setting up an 18-team top division and not listening to those who argue that more and more domestic matches, and the consequent extra income, is to the benefit of the Scottish game.

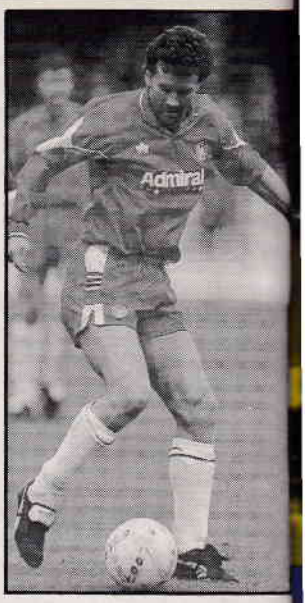
If Scotland are to have a future on the international stage then they must have change.

There is a point when you can ask footballers to go too far.

BOB **McLEAN**

BINGHAM IS STILL HOPEFUL

HOPE springs eternal . . . after World Cup wins in successive away games, in Latvia and Lithuania, Northern Ireland manager Billy Bingham has not given up hope of qualifying for US '94.



The odds are very much against that possibility, but those victories have injected some much-needed confidence into the Irish squad.

Glentoran have appointed their former defender and present second-team coach Robert Strain as manager in place of Tommy Jackson, with Billy Caskey, who has decided to hang up his boots at the age of 39, as his assistant.

The Glentoran players recently issued a statement, denying that they had anything to do with Jackson's dismissal.

Ronnie McFall, manager of Portadown, caused a few ripples when he put 30-year-old Scottish striker Steve Cowan (27 League goals last season) on the transfer list.

League champions Linfield have been busy in the transfer market.

Partick Thistle midfielder Gary Peebles (above), who had a loan period with Portadown last season, has been signed for a two-year period, and so has striker Gary Haylock from Dublin club Shelbourne, rated among the top six players in the League of Ireland.

There may be promotion and relegation in the Irish League from season 1994-95.

Delegates from clubs at the annual meeting voted 15-14 in favour of a change.

Opponents are taking legal advice on the issue, believing that a three-quarters majority is needed, and Linfield are prepared to form a "breakaway" league if the proposal does not come about, but, even so, automatic ups and downs seem sure to come in the end.

ROY **KITSON**

UEFA bar four

CWMBRAN TOWN'S entry into European competition as Welsh champions was slightly overshadowed by the UEFA ban on the three professional Welsh clubs who play in England.

They cannot enter the Cup-winners' Cup via the Welsh Cup, and conference club Merthyr Tydfil also are affected by the ban. But FAW secretary Alun Evans appealed and obtained a two-year reprieve from the original ban, starting after Cardiff City's appearance next season.

The ban did not and will not force the clubs back into the Welsh League system, but Cardiff City chairman Rick Wright was reported to be considering such a move, and repeating a threat to do so earlier this year.

Merthyr chairman John Reddy wanted to bring the Martyrs back into the new system, but was persuaded by an extraordinary general meeting to hold fire for a year.

Whatever the present climate, these clubs probably will be forced into some decision within this decade.

Welsh Cup finalists Rhyl have hit problems with their Belle Vue ground; the new owner of the land has put up the costs so severely that the club cannot afford to pay the rental and are considering sharing with nearby Colwyn Bay.

In order to keep soccer in the town, however, they are also negotiating with the council to see if new premises can be found.

Flint Town United have no such problems. They have sold their ground and are set to move into a new stadium by August.

Fellow Konica club Mold Alexandra will be anxiously awaiting the next League meeting — they have not carried out the required ground improvements and could well be demoted, leaving a lifeline for Llanidloes Town to stay up.

Llansantfraid and Ton Pentre, winners of the second-level Leagues in the north and south respectively, await formal sanction for promotion.

Hopes for World Cup qualification continue to rise after the comfortable win in the Faroes and Romania's failure against the RCS.

Excitement is increasing, tinged with apprehension after previous late failures. But the current side are quite capable of winning through.

MEL AP IOR **THOMAS**

UK news

By MARK IRWIN

IS John Barnes destined for a place in soccer legend as the "nearly man of British football"?

Great Expectations...

But Barnes has so little time left

THE most enigmatic player in the country is fast running out of time to prove that he really is the real thing.

Barnes reaches a major milestone in his career when his passes his 30th birthday in November and the contract he has spent all summer deliberating over will probably be his last as a major-league player.

Since signing for Liverpool six years ago he can point to a medal collection which includes two for the League Championship, one for the FA Cup and two Player of the Year awards.

Yet even his most staunch defenders cannot argue with any real conviction that Barnes has lived up to all expectations of him during his time at Anfield.

And when that argument is extended to international level — forget it.

The popular theory when Graham Taylor was appointed England manager in 1990 was "if he can't bring the best out of Barnes then nobody can". He hasn't. And Taylor has more right to feel let down than anyone.

For if England fail to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals and Taylor's contract is not renewed, Barnes will bear at least some of the blame for the downfall of his former Watford mentor.

He has played in half of Taylor's England teams yet his contribution has been negligible. Take away that first minute free-kick against the Dutch this April and you would be hard pressed to justify Barnes' continuing presence in the international side.

Nobody has shown more loyalty to the Jamaican-born winger than Taylor, who brought Barnes to prominence at Watford and set him on the road to a highly lucrative career.

Yet even Taylor's patience seemed to have reached breaking point when Barnes was loudly jeered by the Wembley fans during another ineffective performance against the World Cup whipping boys of San Marino.

"I will support him up to a point but I can't hold his hand forever and there comes a time when John has to take responsibility himself," said Taylor at the time.

He also voiced his doubts about Barnes' level of fitness after returning from a six-month Achilles injury, though didn't explain why he had selected a player who wasn't physically up to the task in the first place.

"We have often been accused in England of turning our backs on gifted players," added the England boss. "So what do we do now? Turn our backs?"

Though Barnes was retained for the next three games, it was significant that he was the only player to get the axe for the sleeves-up battle in Oslo with group leaders Norway.

'I will support him up to a point but I can't hold his hand forever and there comes a time when John has to take responsibility himself'

Even more significant was the fact that England subsequently lost that battle in devastating fashion.

Barnes also was missing when Taylor's team flopped so badly during last year's European Championship. In fact, he has been on the losing side just once in his last 30 games for England — a record which few, if any, of his contemporaries could match.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that Barnes has rarely produced his club form at international level. It is one of the oldest and most boring criticisms in the game. Yet it's as relevant today as it was when first voiced ten years ago.

It is now nine years since that solo goal in Rio de Janeiro and seven since his brief World Cup rally against Argentina. Barnes had played 71 times for England by the time they flew to the United States last month and produced only a handful of notable performances during that time.

Even the fierce abuse of exasperated England fans has failed to light the fire in a player with the skills to match Diego Maradona but the apparent desire to match Mary Whitehouse.

"If I was younger or more naive, the criticism would have destroyed me," he admits.

"But I'm more experienced now and able to cope. There's nothing I can do about the boos and I'll just have to live with it. But I refuse to allow them to drive me out."

Nor is it just his international form which is giving cause for concern any more. Many disillusioned Liverpool fans would argue that he *did* play for the Anfield club like he does for England last season.

Absent for the first three months of the campaign, Barnes' return from injury certainly never sparked the anticipated Anfield revival and left many observers questioning his commitment to the cause.

Graeme Souness didn't actually mention Barnes by name during the post-match rant which followed the FA Cup KO by Bolton. But the player nevertheless took great exception to the manager's claim that: "Some of my team are more interested in cash than this club. They are only interested in getting another move or another lump of money."

Inconsistent . . . Barnes (above) has never really fulfilled his potential at international level.

Inspiring . . . Peter Beardsley (left).

And though Barnes finished the worst season in Liverpool's recent history as captain, it was no secret that his relationship with Souness was not all it could be.

Nor can there be much doubt that the board's amazing U-turn over Souness' future at Liverpool caused Barnes to think again about the club's offer of a new contract.

Some cynics have even gone so far as to suggest that it was a renewed desire to put himself in the shop window which prompted Barnes to suddenly declare himself available for last month's US Cup '93 after originally opting out to improve his sub-standard fitness level.

If Barnes does decide to leave Liverpool — and by the time you read this he could have made his decision — there will certainly be no shortage of takers among English clubs.

The recent successes of Peter Beardsley, Dean Saunders, Steve Staunton and Ray Houghton proves that not all players leaving Liverpool are on the way down any more.

But he will have to set his sights a lot lower if he is to achieve his long-held ambition of a move abroad.

None of the giants of Europe were interested when he was preparing to leave Watford in 1987 and his agent was circulating a video containing all his greatest moments. They certainly won't be queuing up now for a 29-year-old of dubious fitness and nothing of note in his CV from the past four years.

Brazil

Crazy!

Palmeiras win final farce

HAVE YOU heard the one about the team who won a match 3-0 and then had to play extra time, but only needed to draw in order to win?

That was the situation when Palmeiras met Corinthians in the Sao Paulo State League Final. Corinthians won 1-0 in the home leg, then — before a crowd of 100,000 in the Morumbi Stadium — Palmeiras led 1-0 at half-time and 3-0 after 90 minutes.

So both sides had won one match . . . but Palmeiras had collected an extra bonus point for finishing top of the league table before the semi-final group stage. So, in order to protect that bonus, they needed only to draw in the extra half hour. As it happened they scored another goal to win 4-0 and take their first title in 17 years.

On the ball . . . Evair of Palmeiras, who scored two against Corinthians.

Two of the goals were scored by Evair, taking his total for the season to 18 — one behind Viola of Corinthians.

The fans certainly had value for money that day, particularly those among them who like blood sports.

Palmeiras finished with 10 men after Tonhao had been sent off, and their opponents, playing in a somewhat un-Corinthian spirit, finished with eight — Henrique, Ezequil and finally keeper Ronaldo all departing early.

The Rio League also was decided by a bonus point from the earlier rounds, with Vasco da Gama taking the title after three matches.

They beat Fluminense 2-0, with top striker Valdir getting both goals, then lost 2-1 in the return, a match of three headers, by Vagner and Ezio for Flu and one by Pimentel for Vasco.

The third match ended goalless, with Vasco taking the title because of another controversial bonus point, awarded for gaining most points in both stages of the league season before the final play-off.

Not surprisingly, these confusing arrangements, plus fixture congestion, poor playing standards and low crowds make the competitions far less attractive than they used to be.

Six of the clubs in the Rio contest are talking of forming a breakaway league in an effort to increase revenue. One of them, Flamengo, are about $3million in debt, although they are one of the most popular clubs in the country.

ERIC **WEIL**

Argentina

Legal rows mar Velez victory

VELEZ SARSFIELD, not one of the "big six", but a top club with one of the best grounds in Argentina, won the national championship's closing tournament — but it almost did not finish.

There was a virtual repeat of the opening championship's closing weeks, with Velez Sarsfield stumbling to the finish as Boca Juniors did then.

They clinched the title with a game to go after winning only one and taking five points from their last five games.

River Plate and other leading clubs could do no better.

Four games from the end, River Plate were facing relegation-threatened Talleres in Cordoba when they were awarded a penalty which made it 2-2.

This prompted protests from Talleres with players pushing referee Castrilli and a supporter attacking him.

He sent off four Talleres players so that, under FIFA rules, the team could not carry on playing.

The FA rightly awarded the game to River Plate and suspended the four players.

Talleres then sued the FA in a Cordoba court — not permitted under FIFA rules — and the judge ordered the FA to drop all sanctions against Talleres until the case was settled. The match result still does not figure on the table.

The FA were prepared to accept the judicial order, but the referees would not and went on strike, leaving one weekend without soccer.

Then the Labour Ministry (at the FA's instigation) forced the referees to lift their strike (under threat of declaring it illegal) and soccer went on the following week.

Talleres beat Newell's Old Boys with their suspended players and Newell's claimed the points, but all decisions are pending until the judge's final verdict.

Up the wall . . . Velez Sarsfield's players lead the celebrations.

FIFA threatened the Argentine FA with suspension and the possibility of not being able to take part in the World Cup, and to avert this the FA threatened Talleres with expulsion.

Boca Juniors have a new coach. Oscar Tabarez finally resigned, having threatened to do so several times, and has been replaced by Jorge Haberger, an Argentine who has done most of his recent coaching in Bolivia.

By the time he took over, Boca had lost their title chance.

On the decisive next-to-last day, trouble came where it was least expected.

Rosario Central v Huracan had no significance, but Huracan goalkeeper Gutierrez was felled by a stone — he nearly lost an eye — and his team walked off.

Winner Santana lashes out

TELE SANTANA, who said a year ago that he could not care less about the Libertadores Cup, held up the trophy triumphantly for the second year running.

The team he coaches, Sao Paulo FC, became the first club in 15 years to retain the Cup, Argentina's Boca Juniors being the last to do so, in 1978.

But Santana then lashed out at Brazil's soccer authorities, who had done their best to stop one of their own clubs from winning the trophy by forcing them to play 54 games in 123 days.

"I can't understand how the men who control our football can organise so many games with so little time in between," he said.

"When the Libertadores timetable came out they could well have taken the dates into account, but they didn't. It's impossible to play football like this."

But Sao Paulo DID play football, of a kind seldom seen in this competition, and their performances overshadowed the knock-out stage when they came into it after having the usual bye in first-round group play.

They had an early shock when losing their first game 2-0 to little-fancied Newell's Old Boys, who were bottom of the Argentine championship, but showed their authority at home when they came back to win 4-0 and go through on aggregate.

The third round (quarter-finals) paired them against the other Brazilian survivors, Flamengo, and they again confirmed they were the best team in the country with a 3-1 aggregate victory.

The semi-finals, against Paraguay's Cerro Porteno, were played in rain and on a muddy field (both legs) and these conditions went against good soccer . . . and against Sao Paulo.

But they deservedly went through, 1-0 on aggregate, to face Chile's Universidad Catolica, no mean rivals, in the best finals seen in this tournament for a long time.

Sao Paulo played superbly to win 5-1 at home, but this did not stop Universidad from giving them anxious moments in the second leg, when they scored twice in the first 15 minutes.

Santana's half-time instructions were: "Don't defend. Play your usual attacking game."

Leading from the front . . . Sao Paulo's Rai against Univ. Catolica.

There were no further goals, but Sao Paulo took the tie 5-3.

Happily, this year's knock-out stage produced only one shoot-out decider, between the two Paraguayan teams, Olimpia and Cerro Porteno. Olimpia won after 0-0 and 1-1 draws.

One of the favourites, Colombia's America, pressed the self-destruction button once too often.

In the quarter-final against Peru's Sporting Cristal they lost a 2-0 lead to draw at home, then lost a 2-0 lead away before getting through 3-2. In the semi-final against Universidad Catolica they lost 1-0, in a game they dominated, and then wasted a 2-0 lead in the second leg to draw 2-2 and go out on aggregate.

America lost three finals running 1985-87, and have never won the trophy.

Universidad Catolica's Almada topped the individual scorers with nine goals in a tournament with 254 goals in 92 games.

Argentine clubs have not won the trophy for seven years but are still the leading winners with 15, followed by Uruguay eight, Brazil seven, Paraguay two, Colombia and Chile one each.

ERIC **WEIL**

Atlante make up for lost time

ATLANTE won the Mexican championship for the fourth time — but the first in 46 years — by beating Monterrey 4-0 on aggregate.

Goalkeeper Felix Fernandez was sent off after only seven minutes of the first leg, in front of 90,000 fans at the Azteca Stadium, but Atlante held on to win 1-0.

Monterrey could not do the same in front of their own supporters. They also had to play most of the match with ten men after defender Hernandez had been sent off, and lost 3-0.

Guzman, who scored the only goal of the first leg, added the last two in the second.

Atlante had knocked out Necaxa 5-2 on aggregate in the quarter-finals. They then defeated champions Leon 4-2, while favourites America went out to Monterrey by the only goal.

1993 CONCACAF GOLD CUP

● Mexico and the United States are the favourites for the 1993 CONCACAF Gold Cup being staged this month.

All matches in Group A plus the first semi-final are in Dallas, all other games are in Mexico City.

Date	Group	Opponents
July 10	A	Honduras v Panama
	A	United States v Jamaica
July 11	B	Canada v Costa Rica
	B	Mexico v Martinque
July 14	A	Honduras v Jamaica
	A	United States v Panama
July 15	B	Canada v Martinque
	B	Mexico v Costa Rica
July 17	A	Panama v Jamaica
	A	United States v Honduras
July 18	B	Costa Rica v Martinque
	B	Mexico v Canada
July 21	Semi-final (A)	1st Gp A v 2nd Gp B
July 22	Semi-final (B)	1st Gp B v 2nd Gp A
July 25	3rd Place	Semi-final losers
	Final	Semi-final winners

Against the odds

MEXICO's qualification for the 1994 World Cup — their ninth in all — was achieved against a background of strife and dissent.

All credit, therefore, to the players for rising above the pettiness and the bitterness.

Coach Manuel Lapuente resigned soon after the team began preparations last year. He was replaced by Cesar Luis Menotti, who in turn quit and left his successor, Miguel Mejia Baron, only three months in which to prepare his squad.

In addition, there was much internal squabbling over places on the Mexican Federation.

Honduras, St. Vincent and Costa Rica, the other nations in Mexico's first qualifying group of the CONCACAF region, hardly compare with others to be met later. Nor did Canada and El Salvador in the second stage, but in view of the circumstances the team did well to get through in convincing style.

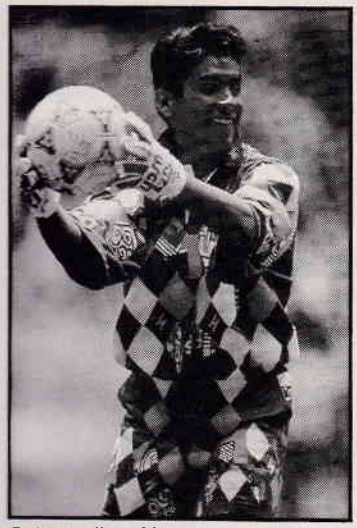
They topped both groups, playing a total of 12 matches, winning nine and losing only two, with 38 goals scored and seven conceded.

Baron's mixture of veterans with experience in Spain — Hugo Sanchez, Luis Flores and "Grandfather" Cruz — and some young newcomers certainly paid off.

Goalkeeper Jorge Campos and midfielders Miguel Espana and Alberto Garcia Aspe all did well, and striker Luis Garcia's goals made him the new idol of Mexican football.

The team also won praise for sportsmanship and fair play as they became the first to qualify — other than as host or holder — for the final stages of a competition not always renowned for such qualities.

A. F. **AMBRIZ**



Doing well . . . Mexico's Jorge Campos (above) and Luis Garcia (below).

Clockwork Orange

IN CHILE people call Cobreloa the "Clockwork Orange" (naranja mecanica), because the team's main attribute is that they work like a clock or machine, and they wear orange-coloured jerseys.

Cobreloa won the Chilean First Division for the fifth time last year — which may not put the club among the leading title winners, but then they only started playing professional soccer in 1977.

In those 15 years they also have reached the final of the Libertadores Cup — the South American Club Championship — on two occasions, in 1981 and 1982, when they lost to Brazil's Flamengo and Uruguay's Penarol respectively.

The club have two distinct advantages over other Chilean outfits — they have built-in funds and fans.

The club "belong" to the Chuquicamata Mining Company, situated in Calama in the middle of the North Chilean desert. This has one of the biggest copper mines in the world and workers are automatic members of the club, with monthly subscriptions coming directly out of their wages, or being paid by the company.

That, however, does not mean that the club are rolling in money.

After winning the Chilean title last year, coach Jose Sultaney — named Coach of the Year in Chile for his excellent work with the team and considered for the national job — wanted to strengthen the team to be able to put up a good show in the Libertadores Cup.

The club's board said there was no money for such expenditure.

Earlier this year the miners decided to give a day's wage to the club to buy a Bolivian striker, Alvaro Pena, after he had played well against Cobreloa.

Another Chilean team, Temuco, beat them to his signature and Cobreloa are now out of the Libertadores Cup, but the gesture by the fans — who earn only meagre wages — is an example of their regard for the club.

Calama is in the middle of nowhere — 2,700 metres above sea level — and the team are the miners' pride and joy.

The altitude of their 20,000-capacity stadium gives them an advantage over many rivals and they rarely lose at home. Last season their league record in 30 games was 17-10-3, two of their defeats were away in Santiago and the third when they were already assured of the championship.

Cobreloa took the title by two points after a close fight with Colo Colo, going for their fourth straight title, but tiring after a heavy programme near the end, and Universidad Catolica, who were somewhat unlucky in a few defeats.

A year earlier Sultaney had done well with Coquimbo, from the small port of the same name, taking them to the vice-championship and into the Libertadores Cup. They became the team from the smallest town (60,000 population) ever to reach that competition.

Last year, with Cobreloa, Sultaney achieved a record no other club could match. The players, few of them outstanding individually — there are only two in the national squad at the moment — succeed with tenaciousness, discipline and hard work, added to Sulantey's technique and planning.

When he took over at the beginning of last season, he brought back five experienced players who had been playing abroad — Edgardo Fuentes, Hugo Gonzalez and Manuel Figueroa from Mexico, Jaime Vera from Greece, and Norberto Retamar, an Argentine who had been playing for various Chilean clubs.

He already had veteran defender Hector Puebla, who has played in all five Cobreloa champion teams between 1980 and 1992.

The outstanding players in last year's team were goalkeeper Leonardo Canales, defender Edgardo Fuentes and midfielders Norberto Retamar and Juan Covarrubias, who also was the team's top scorer with 11 goals.

But only midfielders Fernando Cornejo and defender Pedro Hugo Gonzalez were called up for the national team squad.

CLUB DE DEPORTES COBRELOA

Colours: *Orange and white.*
Stadium: *Estadio Cobreloa (cap 20,000).*
Address: *Atacama 1482, Calama, Chile.*
League (5): *1980, 1982, 1985, 1988, 1992.*
Libertadores Cup: *runners-up 1981, 1982.*

CHAMPIONSHIP SQUAD

Goalkeepers *— Leonardo Canales, Mario Osben.*
Defenders *— Pedro Gatica, Hugo Gonzalez, Edgardo Fuentes, Marcelo Miranda, Carlos Fuentes, Miguel Rojas, Caludio Tello.*
Midfielders *— Hector Puebla, Norberto Retamar, Jaime Vera, Fernando Cornejo, Omar Gomez, Carlos Gonzalez, Danilo Arancibia.*
Forwards *— Manuel Figueroa, Ramon Perez, Juan Covarrubias, Marcelo Alvarez, Luis Garcia, Andres Rodan.*

Iguaran out, Higuita inside

THE recent return of international football to Bogota, with a friendly against neighbours Venezuela, heralded the finale for Colombian striker Arnoldo Iguaran.

The game provided 36-year-old Millonarios striker Iguaran with the opportunity to end his international career with a flourish in front of his home-town supporters.

Iguaran had not played for Colombia since 1991, and his final appearance lasted only 18 minutes, whereupon coach Francisco Maturana substituted him to allow the player to acknowledge a prolonged ovation from fans and players alike.

Iguaran won 68 caps from 1979, scoring 25 goals.

Both figures are Colombian records, despite a falling out with the then coach, Carlos Bilardo, who exiled him from the international scene in the early 1980s.

Another popular figure is facing the end of his international career. Goalkeeper Rene Higuita's involvement as an intermediary in an attempt to secure the release of a kidnapped girl ended with his arrest — and a possible 15-year jail sentence.

Higuita is now in prison in Bogota pending an appeal, and to compound his problems, he is also under investigation for a possible financial connection with the head of the Medellin drugs cartel, Pablo Escobar.

The opening stage of the championship ("Apertura") has been completed, culminating with the surprise triumph of the Once Phillips side from Manizales.

The provincial club, sponsored by the Dutch electrical company, won one extra point — to be carried forward to later in the season.

Coached by the youngest coach in the league, a 32-year-old Gary Lineker lookalike in Carlos Restrepo, and with the goals of Miguel Asprilla, Once Phillips edged out Junior Barranquilla (who earned 0.75 of a point.) Asprilla was signed in Colombia's most lopsided deal of 1993, a pre-season swap.

Once Phillips signed Asprilla and three other key regulars from Deportivo Cali in exchange for midfielder Omar Suarez — who subsequently has not started a game.

KEITH **SMITH**

Finisher . . . Iguaran.

Paraguay

Sport 0 General 2

WILLIAM WEILER made refereeing history in a Second Division match by sending off 20 players.

He began by dismissing two of the home team, Sport Ameliano, which provoked an argument.

Opposing General Cabellero players joined in, and after a free-for all Weiler sent off all the remaining home men and nine of the visitors.

After three games in the First Division, Olimpia and Cerro Porteno were first and second respectively, the former with all their games won.

This season's championship is in two stages, with the top four of each going into the final round.

Uruguay

PENAROL beat Nacional 1-0 in the Uruguayan classic, with Pablo Bengoechea scoring from a penalty on the stroke of half-time.

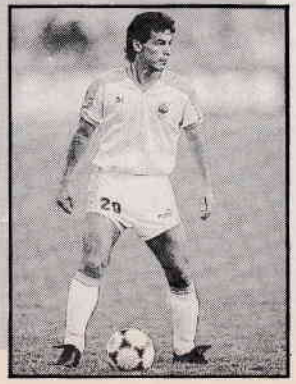
So Penarol topped the First Division after 10 games by one point over Defensor, who have conceded only two goals.

When Penarol trailed Rampla Juniors 2-0 and then drew, strong protests from the latter club almost led to a referees' strike and they refused to officiate at Rampla matches for a week.

Penarol also continued in the news by reversing the export trend and signing an 18-year-old Japanese, Yosika Matsubara, from Yamaha.

Then they were out of the news when fans attacked journalists, and TV, radio and newspapers decided to ignore their matches.

Winner . . . Bengoechea.



Venezuela

MINERVEN and Maritimo tied for first place in the First Division championship.

Both qualify for next year's Libertadores Cup, but a play-off will decide the title.

Peru

ALIANZA LIMA, leading the First Division from the start of the season, were beaten 5-1 by Sporting Cristal, who caught them up at the top just as the first round ended.

The championship then went into recess until September 11, following the national team's participation in the Copa America and the World Cup qualifiers.

Chile

UNION ESPANOLA retained the Cup with a 3-1 win against Cobreloa, the First Division champions.

In the third-place play-off, Everton beat Universidad de Chile 4-1. Union Espanola thus qualify for the next CONMEBOL Cup while Everton play off with Colo Colo (third in the last First Division tournament) for another place.

Two of Chile's top clubs, Universidad Catolica and Colo Colo, dropped out in the quarter-finals — the former because they fielded reserves on numerous occasions while engaged in the Libertadores Cup.

TABLES

ARGENTINA
National A Division — closing championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Velez Sarsfield	18	10	6	2	23	7	26
Independiente	18	6	11	1	23	14	23
San Lorenzo	18	8	6	4	26	17	22
Dep. Espanol	18	9	4	5	24	17	22
River Plate*	17	9	3	5	31	19	21
Rosario Central	17	6	7	4	22	16	19
Boca Juniors	18	5	9	4	21	17	19
Racing Club	18	8	3	7	18	17	19
Estudiantes	18	5	8	5	22	18	18
Huracan	17	6	6	5	20	20	18
Dep. Mandiyu	18	5	8	5	18	21	18
Argentinos Jun.	18	1	13	3	10	12	17
Gimnasia	18	4	8	6	12	15	16
Lanus	18	3	10	5	11	14	16
Belgrano	18	3	10	5	12	22	16
FC Oeste	18	5	5	8	14	20	15
Talleres**	17	4	7	6	15	23	15
Platense	18	3	7	8	13	25	13
Tucuman	18	4	4	10	16	28	12
Newell's OB*	18	2	7	9	10	19	11

** One result pending protest.*
*** Two results pending protest.*
Worst relegation averages: *Platense 0,92; Argentinos Juniors 0,902; Talleres 0,901; San Martin 0.81. (Two clubs relegated — Tucuman already down.)*

BRAZIL
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Sao Paulo State League — regular championship final
Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palmeiras	30	19	6	5	53	27	44
Sao Paulo	30	16	7	7	53	24	39
Corinthians	30	16	7	7	59	34	39
Santos	30	16	7	7	55	41	39
Guarani	30	15	6	9	41	41	36
Rio Branco	30	13	10	7	43	32	36
Mogi Mirim	30	11	14	5	43	32	36
Uniao Sao Joao	30	12	11	7	45	35	35
Bragantino	30	11	8	11	33	34	30
Portuguesa	30	8	10	12	48	52	26
Ponte Preta	30	7	11	12	32	43	25
Ituano	30	9	6	15	31	42	24
XV de Piracicaba	30	4	13	13	29	47	21
Juventus	30	5	7	18	30	60	17
Marilia	30	4	9	17	30	49	17
Noroeste	30	5	6	19	26	60	16

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Novorizontino	26	14	8	4	55	25	40
Ferroviaria	26	13	10	3	47	26	36
America	26	15	5	6	41	24	35
Santo Andre	26	11	10	5	32	23	32
Sao Jose	26	9	11	6	27	23	29
Saocarlense	26	9	8	9	38	36	26
Tacuaritinga	26	9	8	9	29	30	26
Aracatuba	26	8	10	8	26	31	26
Botafogo (RP)	26	8	9	9	25	24	25
Sao Caetano	26	10	3	13	32	38	23
XV de Jau	26	8	7	11	34	35	23
Internacional	26	6	6	14	22	36	18
Olimpia	26	5	6	15	21	44	16
Catanduvense	26	3	7	16	20	54	13

Top six of group A and top two of group B qualify for semi-final round. Top two in group B also replace bottom two of group A next season.

Semi-final round — final standings
Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palmeiras*	6	6	0	0	15	2	13
Guarani	6	2	2	2	6	6	6
Ferroviaria	6	1	2	3	4	9	4
Rio Branco	6	0	2	4	4	12	2

** Bonus point for finishing first in group A.*
Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Corinthians	6	4	1	1	8	3	9
Sao Paulo	6	4	0	2	14	6	8
Santos	6	2	1	3	10	15	5
Novorizontino	6	1	0	5	6	14	2

Group winners play-off for title.

Guanabara state (Rio) League — 2nd stage (final standings)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vasco	10	8	2	1	21	9	18 (34)
Flamengo	11	7	3	1	27	12	17 (32)
Bangu	11	5	5	1	12	6	15 (26)
Fluminense	11	5	3	3	17	11	13 (32)
America/Rio	11	5	3	3	14	10	13 (24)
Botafogo	11	5	1	5	17	14	11 (25)
Americano	11	2	7	2	13	11	11 (21)
V. Redonda	11	2	5	4	9	12	9 (12)
Itaperuna	11	2	5	4	7	11	9 (9)
Olaria	11	3	3	5	7	18	9 (17)
S. Cristovao	11	0	4	7	6	22	4 (12)
Bonsucesso	11	1	0	10	5	19	2 (2)

First stage winners Fluminense and second stage winners Vasco da Gama qualify for final plus team obtaining most points in both stages — also Vasco da Gama, so they get bonus point for final. First team to reach four points, in two or three games, wins title.

EL SALVADOR
First Division (final standings — regular championship)
1) FAS 45 pts; 2) Luis A. Firpo 44; 3) Marte 43; 4) Alianza 41; 5) Baygon-ADET 39; 6) Cojutepeque 35; 7) Tiburones 29; 8) Aquila 20; 9) Apaneca 27; 10) San Francisco 24.
Top four in final round
Final round (3 games): 1) Alianza 6 pts; 2) Firpo 4; 3) FAS; Marte 1.

PERU
First Division (half-way stage)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting Cristal	15	11	1	3	37	11	23
Alianza Lima	15	10	3	2	45	23	23
Melgar	15	9	2	4	29	24	20
Sport Boys	15	8	3	4	30	19	19
Universitario	15	8	3	4	23	12	19
Dep. Municipal	15	6	4	5	24	21	16
Carlos Manucci	15	7	2	6	16	18	16
Cienciano	15	6	4	5	16	18	16
Dep. Sipesa	15	5	5	5	19	16	15
UM Cerro Pasco	15	4	5	6	13	25	13
Leon de Huanuco	15	2	8	5	13	18	12
San Agustin	15	4	4	7	16	22	12
Alianza	15	2	6	7	20	34	10
UT Cajamarca	15	4	2	9	19	37	10
Union Huaral	15	2	5	8	24	34	9
Defensor Lima	15	23	10		17	28	7

COLOMBIA
Opening Championship — final standings
Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Once Philips	14	6	5	3	26	16	17
Atletico Huila	14	6	5	3	22	17	17
Millonarios	14	7	2	5	18	19	16
Pereira	14	6	3	5	18	19	15
Deoportivo Cali	14	6	2	6	20	20	14
America/Cali	14	5	3	6	25	23	13
Indep.Santa Fe	14	4	3	7	21	25	11
Deportes Tolima	14	2	5	7	12	23	9

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jun. Barranquilla	14	9	3	2	26	12	21
Atletico Nacional	14	7	2	5	23	18	16
Bucaramanga	14	6	4	4	17	15	16
Ind/Medellin	14	5	5	4	18	18	15
Envigado	14	4	5	5	18	17	13
Union Magdalena	14	5	2	7	18	27	12
Quindio	14	4	3	7	21	20	11
Cucuta	14	2	4	8	11	25	8

Group winners play off for one bonus point to take into final round with 3/4 going to loser. Two second-placed teams play off for 1/2 and 1/4 bonus point.

PARAGUAY
First Division after 3 games:
1) Olimpia 6 pts; 2) Cerro Porteno 5; 3) Presidente Hayes, Nacional 4; 5) Guarani, Sportivo Luqueno, Libertad, Cerro Cora, Guarani 3; 10) At. Colegiales, Sol de America 2; 12) River Plate 0.

ECUADOR
First Division (1st stage — final standings)
Group 1: 1) Emelec, Delfin 14; 3) Nacional 11; 4) Liga Universitaria de Quito 9; 5) Tecnico Universitario 7; 6) Valdez 5.
Group 2: 1) Barcelona 14; 2) Green Cross 12; 3) Dep. Quito 9; 4) Aucas, Santos 8; 6) Cuenca 7.
Top two of each group qualified for end of season final round.

URUGUAY
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	10	7	2	1	22	8	16
Defensor	10	5	5	0	11	2	15
Danubio	9	5	2	2	13	7	12
Progreso	9	2	6	1	10	10	10
Liverpool	9	3	4	2	6	6	10
Rampla Juniors	9	3	4	2	10	8	10
Nacional	10	3	3	4	11	11	9
Cerro	9	3	3	3	11	11	9
Wanderers	9	2	3	4	10	15	7
Huracan Buceo	10	1	5	4	10	15	7
Racing Club	10	1	5	4	4	9	7
Bella Vista	9	2	2	5	8	9	6
River Plate	9	0	4	5	4	18	4

VENEZUELA
First Division (Final standings)

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Maritimo*	30	16	9	5	41
Minerven*	30	16	9	5	41
Caracas FC	30	18	4	8	40
Tachira	30	17	5	8	39
Mineros Guyana	30	15	8	7	38
Trujillanos	30	13	8	9	38
Estudiantes	30	13	8	9	34
Anzoategui	30	12	10	8	34
Lara	30	11	12	7	34
Monagas	30	13	6	11	32
Llaneros	30	8	11	11	27
Univ. de los Andes	30	5	10	15	20
Zamora	30	6	6	18	18
Italia	30	5	7	18	17
Galicia	30	3	9	18	15
Portuguesa	30	4	4	22	12

** Play-off for title.*

COSTA RICA
First Division (Quarter-finals — final standings)
Group A: 1) Turrialba, Herediano (on better goal differencê) 7 pts; 3) Ramonense 7; 4) Puntarenas 3.
Group B: 1) Cartajines, Alajuelense 7; 3) Saprissa 5; 4) El Carmen 5. (Top two of each group qualify for semifinal stage.)

HONDURAS
First Division (final round)
1) Olimpia 7 pts; 2) Marathon 6;3) Petrotela 5; 4) Motagua 4; 5) Real Espana 2.

US Cup '93

Paul Gardner and **Jonathan Shallard** report from America

UNITED STATES .. 0
BRAZIL 2
Careca 5
Winck 87
Att: 44,579

UNITED STATES .. 2
Dooley 42
Lalas 72
ENGLAND 0
Att: 37,652

BRAZIL 3
Helmer (og) 13
Careca (pen) 32
Luisinho 39
GERMANY 3
Klinsmann 66, 89
Moller 80
Att: 34,737

ENGLAND 1
Platt 47
BRAZIL 1
Marcio Santos 76
Att: 54,118.

UNITED STATES .. 3
Dooley 25, 79
Stewart 72
GERMANY 4
Klinsmann 14
Riedle 34, 39, 59
Att: 53,549.

GERMANY 2
Effenberg 26
Klinsmann 55
ENGLAND 1
Platt 31
Att: 62,126.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GERMANY	3	2	1	0	9	7	5
Brazil	3	1	2	0	6	4	4
United States	3	1	0	2	5	6	2
England	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

● *Full match statistics in Results Section.*

That old scoring style . . . Klinsmann hits his first goal against The US, the third of his four tournament goals.

Same again, please

The warm-up is a winner

THE experiment turned out to be a success. US Cup '93, the American showpiece conceived as a dry run for the real thing next year, had just about everything the organisers could have wished.

The US did not win this time, as they had last year, but they beat England and scored three against Germany, after having lost, predictably, to Brazil.

Just as important, however, was the way the results were achieved. Five of the six games did plenty to enhance the sport's status before the US public, only England v Brazil being partly strangled by fearful English defensive tactics.

The crowds reacted with the kind of knowledgeable excitement which promises to be a colourful feature of the World Cup.

"We can forget all the talk of Americans not understanding soccer," said delighted FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter.

Organising Committee officials shared the euphoria. Not only did the crowds flock in — 280,000 — but the media gave the event good play, logistics worked to perfection, security forces had a quiet time and the teams were enthusiastic.

German coach Berti Vogts said: "The best thing about this tournament is not just to have won it but to know that when we come back next year, we shall find people here who understand the game and what we need."

Vogts will also find an American public expecting his team to retain their world title, just as they carried off the glass US Cup trophy. But he preferred to praise Brazil for their first half against his own team in Washington, when they ran up a three-goal lead almost without effort.

For Brazil's Carlos Alberto Pereirra, the trick will be to keep his ageing stars up to scratch at the same time as introducing the right youngsters into the blend.

Graham Taylor's England, depressed from their World Cup trips to Poland and Norway, look unlikely to offer serious opposition, if they even reach the finals.

And Bora Milutinovic's "raggle-taggle bunch of soccer gypsies", as one English newspaper described the US team, know they also have a lot of work to do in the next 12 months.

UNITED STATES 0 BRAZIL 2

ANY resemblance between the US team that took on Brazil at the Yale Bowl and the US team that will play in next year's World Cup was totally accidental.

No Tab Ramos, no Hugo Perez, no Tom Dooley, no Eric Wynalda. Vital players, and without them the US could only fight a losing rearguard action.

In Elivelton and Valdeir — neither of them a regular — Brazil had the stars of the game. Only five minutes into the game, the US defence — shaky all afternoon — made a disastrous error.

Fernando Clavijo brought Elivelton down. As Branco took the free kick, the US defenders moved smartly out, probably catching the Brazilian forwards in the penalty area offside.

The linesman's flag stayed down, the ball stayed in play and Marcio Santos was quickest to control it down near the far touchline. With everyone now racing back towards the American goal, Marcio Santos put over a low cross which Careca turned in at the near post.

Elivelton hit a post after taking a superb return pass from Careca, and later was thwarted by a great reaction save from Tony Meola. The US, playing with five defenders, did very little attacking.

Neither Roy Wegerle nor Bruce Murray could make any impression on the solid defence, and Jean Harbor, the lone man up front, did not help his own cause with a static performance.

At the other end, Meola was putting in a solid afternoon's work, turning away a miskick from his own defender Mike Lapper, saving brilliantly with his legs from Careca, and generally dominating his area.

The second goal that the Brazilians had been threatening to score came with only three minutes left, when Boiadeiro chipped the ball over the US defence; full-back Winck, racing forward, just beat Meola to the ball.

UNITED STATES 2 ENGLAND 0

THE US can beat England at soccer. So pigs can fly. And how.

Graham Taylor struggled to put a brave face on it on a stormy night in Foxboro, justly praising Tony Meola for a string of "miraculous" saves, and blaming — perhaps less justly — the slings and arrows of outrageous, anti-English misfortune, which condemned his hapless team to their most embarrassing defeat yet.

Somewhat confusingly, Taylor complained that his team had had *too much* of the ball: "We had so much possession that we lost the tempo of the game we're us to — it made us lose our way."

The statistics showed 13 English corners to the US's five, and 15 saves by Meola to three by Woods.

Meola was not a lone match-winner. Dooley certainly did his bit, not just the splendid stooping header to Ramos's cross which sparked the first panic thoughts of a repeat of that historic scoreline from Belo Horizonte in 1950.

For the first time in a US shirt Dooley (left) showed the value of his Bundesliga experience. His goal ended a 369-minute goal drought, sparking the US's first win in five games.

When Alexi Lalas left the bench late in the game to rise to a Ramos corner and leave Woods punching thin air, the Boston Tea Party was all over for the Brits.

An inspired show by the Americans contrasted with an abject display by an unjustifiably over-confident and under-motivated England. But was the result such a surprise?

The England team who began the match had ONE international goal between them, by Ian Wright, two games earlier!

BRAZIL 3 GERMANY 3

THREE goals in the last 25 minutes brought Germany a remarkable draw against the in-and-out Brazilians in Washington.

In the first half Brazil were IN splendid form, scoring three times through a Helmer own-goal, a Careca penalty and a delightful Luisinho effort. In the second half, however, Brazil were OUT of sorts, losing cohesion, patience and tempers.

The Germans, who had not been three goals down since they lost to Austria in 1986, fought back with typical determination. Klinsmann made up for a dreadful miss by scoring their first goal. Moller made it 3-2 from a mispunch by Taffarel, and in injury time the ever-persistent Klinsmann grabbed the equaliser from a long throw by Schultz, which caused panic in the Brazil box.

A splendid game with a message undelined for the umpteenth time: never write off the Germans.

ENGLAND 1 BRAZIL 1

BRAZIL often give the impression of having a spare gear to call on when they need it, but something went wrong this time.

They could not find that extra little helper against a dogged, if still uninspired, England. The result seemed to satisfy both sides.

England manager Graham Taylor, for one, was well pleased, saying: "We showed people that we are tactically aware."

Not everybody would agree but there were some encouraging signs, notably a splendid debut by goalkeeper Tim Flowers, a return to form by Des Walker and a typical goal by David Platt who went on as substitute after 47 minutes and scored with his first touch.

For a while victory seemed possible, even though England hardly managed another shot. But after 77 minutes Marcio Santos headed in from a corner to take some of the gloss off the performance from an English point of view.

GERMANY 4 UNITED STATES 3

TAKING on the World Champions appealed to the American public, and this was the match that ABC screened on national network — the first soccer match to be chosen for almost a decade.

What the viewers got was what the game's promoters wanted them to get: a hatful of goals to suggest that maybe Uncle Sam's boys are not so far off the pace, after all.

But it was only a suggestion. Germany produced what Berti Vogts later described as their best 70 minutes of the tournament "before we seemed to remember that we would be back here in 12 months and started giving goals away."

Two of them transformed a self-explanatory 4-1 scoreline into a deceptive one. A hat-trick from Riedle — two impressive headers and a knock-in from a Kohler thunderbolt off the bar — plus an early header by Klinsmann from Matthaus's corner were only slightly dented when Dooley swept in Wegerle's mishit cross for an interim equaliser.

Late in the game, substitute Stewart's shot just crossed the line, as did Dooley's header, but the flurry had more to do with German fatigue than American ascendancy.

Vogts was left to rue an uncharacteristic total of six goals conceded in two games, attributing it essentially to the absence of the injured Olaf Thon.

"The teamwork was OK," said Vogts. "Our errors were all individual ones."

GERMANY 2 ENGLAND 1

AT THE risk of being upstaged by the grass pitch they were playing on and the roof they were playing under, Germany and England produced a match of incident and occasional class.

Most of the latter came from a German side once again capable of giving the impression that they always had an extra gear if needed.

Against England 1993, such overdrive is seldom required. Taylor tinkered again with his defence, switching even in mid-game, proving only that he was still in search of a settled system and that Gary Pallister was the only defender to emerge from the three games with reputation enhanced.

Nevertheless, it was Pallister who was in a knot as Effenberg beat Martyn for the opener from a pass by Matthaus (right).

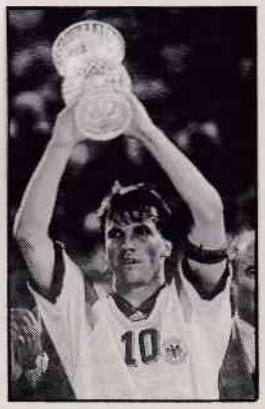
England huffed and puffed and succeeded in creating an equaliser as exquisite as anything Brazil may have produced: Sharpe to Barnes, a flick to Ince, a neat short cross, and there was Platt to steal his 20th goal in England's colours. Not bad for a nominal midfielder.

On the whole, though, England threatened little.

England may have at least drawn, had it not been for Barnes's lapse of concentration (not the only one) shortly after the break, which allowed Klinsmann to free Ziege, whose shot went via Martyn and a post to Klinsmann, presenting him with his record fourth goal of the tournament.

The pitch? "A miracle," said Vogts.

"A dream come true," said University of Michigan turf expert Dr. Trey Rogers.



Cultivated in California, transported to Detroit, moved into the hall under the fibre-glass roof ten days before the game, and standing its World Cup test with a first-class degree.

The only problem was the humidity in the Silverdome, measured at 92 per cent.

That's not the only thing that will cause Graham Taylor to sweat a little between now and next June.

USA BY Paul Gardner

Tickety-boo!

Rush for seats as the sales start

THE phenomenal scramble for World Cup '94 tickets goes on.

Within hours of going on sale to the general public in June, first-round tickets were sold out in six of the nine venues: Orlando, New York, Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Boston. Amazing, yes . . . but it didn't really amaze anyone because of what had happened in February.

That was when the special allocation of 450,000 first-round tickets was made available in a sale to members of the American "soccer family."

They all disappeared so quickly that it was embarrassing.

A lot of good soccer people never got a look in, so the World Cup '94 organisers increased the allotment, by digging into the 450,000 tickets that had been set aside for general public sales. Which is why the June sale featured only 300,000 and not 450,000 tickets.

"The thirst for the sport in this country is phenomenal," said World Cup boss Alan Rothenberg.

It seems an appropriate word: nearly all the 900,000 first-round tickets available to Americans have already been sold . . . before anybody knows which teams they will be watching. The total number of tickets to be sold is 3.5 million — nearly a million more than for any previous World Cup.

Of these, approximately 2.3 million will be sold within the US, with the remaining 1.2 million available for overseas fans (full distribution of those tickets cannot be made until the qualifying games are over later in the year).

A league of their own

WILL there be soccer life in the US after World Cup '94? Meaning: will there be a pro league?

In December, at the time of the World Cup draw in Las Vegas, the United States Soccer Federation will present to FIFA a business plan for such a league. That is already something of an anomaly in this capitalist country, where it is the businessmen who get things done, not the administrators.

Even USSF secretary-general Hank Steinbrecher wonders about that: "Should the Federation be involved in the running of a pro league? We're a not-for-profit organisation . . . there are so many angles to be considered.

"Hosting the World Cup is easy compared to this. It's going to be a very difficult task."

The difficulties of running a soccer league can be judged by a look at the recent experiences of the American Professional Soccer League.

Of course, the APSL are inclined to get a little miffed when they hear all the talk about the future pro league. They consider themselves to be a pro league, *the* pro league, in the US, and letting it be known that they are interested in expanding, and that new franchises can be purchased from the league for a fee of $1.5 million.

Who would lay down that sort of money for an APSL franchise?

"Nobody in his right mind," came the reply from one long-time soccer observer. For the APSL has been having a bumpy ride lately.

The star club, San Francisco Bay Blackhawks, have dropped out. Blackhawks owner Dan Van Voorhis claimed that the APSL did not offer the level of play that his expenditure warranted.

Van Voorhis is now trying to get Blackhawks into the Mexican First Division.

The USSF had to get involved in this one to work out a settlement as a nasty lawsuit threatened between Van Voorhis and the APSL. But the APSL have not avoided a lawsuit filed by another former owner, Noel Lemon, once in charge of Fort Lauderdale Strikers.

Lemon is claiming $5million, alleging that he was never paid when he sold the Strikers to businessman Brian Lockwood in 1992, and that — when Lockwood abandoned the club —the APSL took charge of it and installed new owners. To those troubles you can add a long story in the *Wall Street Journal* on the tangled financial problems of Karsten Von Wersebe, the owner of Toronto Blizzard.

To say nothing of the defection of Cornelia Corbett, the longest-serving APSL owners. Corbett bought Tampa Bay Rowdies in 1984, but recently announced that she was getting out, and that the club were up for sale.

AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE (APSL)

May 21: Montreal 4 Tampa Bay 2, Vancouver 2 Colorado 0, Los Angeles 3 Fort Lauderdale 2 *(shoot-out)*
May 23: Toronto 2 Tampa Bay 1 *(overtime)*, Colorado 1 Fort Lauderdale 0
May 29: Toronto 1 Vancouver 2
May 30: Montreal 0 Vancouver 2
June 5: Fort Lauderdale 1 Vancouver 2, Colorado 2 Los Angeles 1
June 6: Toronto 1 Montreal 0, Tampa Bay 6 Vancouver 2
June 11: Montreal 0 Colorado 1
June 12: Tampa Bay 3 Fort Lauderdale 5
June 13: Toronto 1 Colorado 2 *(shoot-out)*, Los Angeles 2 Vancouver 3

Standings

	W	L	F	A	Pts
Vancouver Eighty-Sixers	6	2	16	13	52
Colorado Foxes	7	1	12	8	50
Los Angeles Salsa	4	2	14	10	32
Fort Lauderdale Strikers	2	5	15	15	29
Tampa Bay Rowdies	2	5	19	19	28
Toronto Blizzard	3	5	9	16	27
Montreal Impact	1	5	6	10	13

● *6 points for a win in regulation or overtime; 4 pts for a shoot-out win, 2 pts for a shoot-out loss; 1 pt for each goal scored in regulation, up to a maximum of three.*

DIARY DIARYDIARYDI

1 MAY SATURDAY

ACTION: Switzerland beat Italy 1-0 in Bern, the first Swiss win over their southern neighbours since the 1954 World Cup finals. Dino Baggio is sent off for the first time in his career by referee Aron Schmidhuber, who had cautioned him only four weeks earlier in the UEFA Cup. This is Italy's first defeat in 15 matches since Arrigo Sacchi succeeded Azeglio Vicini as manager . . . Saudi Arabia open their Asian qualifying account in the World Cup by defeating Macao 6-0 in Kuala Lumpur. Hosts Malaysia draw 1-1 with 1982 finalists Kuwait . . . Boksic scores a hat-trick in Marseille's 5-0 thrashing of Strasbourg in the French league . . . Koln win their first match under caretaker coach Morten Olsen, beating Nurnberg 2-0 with both goals from Pierre Littbarski, playing his last match for Koln before joining JEF United in Japan . . . Feyenoord go top again in Holland, beating Den Bosch 5-0 . . . Betar Jerusalem secure the Israeli league title after winning 2-1 away to Maccabi Netanya . . . Rangers beat Airdrie 1-0 to equal their all-time record of five consecutive Scottish league titles . . . Emilio Butragueno scores in the second minute of Real Madrid's 4-0 win in Oviedo, the fastest goal this season in Spain.

PLAYER of the MONTH

Glenn Hoddle . . .
for guiding Swindon Town into England's top division for the first time.

2 MAY SUNDAY

ACTION: World Cup controversy in Tegucigalpa where Honduras crash 4-1 at home to Mexico in a game in which there are three expulsions, followed by angry, violent clashes between riot police and several thousand irate fans. Canada go top of the group, winning 2-1 in El Salvador . . . in the World Cup African section, Ivory Coast win 2-1 at home to Nigeria while cash-crisis Zimbabwe crash 3-0 in Guinea in what coach Fabisch says is his last game in charge . . . in Brazil, a Santos fan tries to attack a linesman and fans behind one goal riot during and after a 4-2 defeat by Portuguesa, who benefit with goals from two controversial refereeing decisions . . . Aston Villa's 1-0 home defeat by Oldham means Manchester United, without kicking a ball, are English champions for the first time in 26 years . . . a bomb scare forces Dordrecht's home match against PSV in Holland to be abandoned at half-time with PSV 1-0 ahead . . . Paulo Sousa and Sergei Yuran are sent off but Benfica win 1-0 away to Chaves to go one point ahead of Porto at the top of the Portuguese table . . . Barcelona cling on to their goal-difference lead over Real Madrid in Spain after a Ronald Koeman goal brings a 1-0 derby victory over Espanol.

FRANCE: Marseille midfielder Franck Sauzee says he will leave the club after the Champions' Cup Final against Milan though his destination remains a matter of negotiation.

JAPAN: Gary Lineker scores his first goal for Grampus Eight in a 2-1 friendly win over Lazio in Nagoya.

3 MAY MONDAY

ACTION: World Cup Asian qualifying play brings victories for Kuwait by 10-1 v Macao and for United Arab Emirates by 7-0 over Bangladesh.

ENGLAND: Manchester United celebrate their league title in appropriate style by defeating Blackburn 3-1.

HOLLAND: Dordrecht and PSV are asked, by the KNVB, to arrange to replay only the second half of the league match which was abandoned at half-time at the weekend because of a bomb warning.

SCOTLAND: Hearts sack manager Joe Jordan two days after a 6-0 defeat by Falkirk virtually rules them out of a UEFA Cup spot.

URUGUAY: Nacional coach Roberto Fleitas quits after a shock 1-0 defeat by Cerro.

ZAMBIA: A state funeral in Lusaka honours the 18 members of the national squad who died in the Gabon aircraft disaster.

4 MAY TUESDAY

BELGIUM: Antwerp, rearranging fixtures to help prepare for the Cup-winners' Cup Final, beat Ghent 3-1.

BRAZIL: Illegal use of the elbow becomes a major subject of controversy after incidents involving Brazilian players in both the Libertadores Cup and the Paulista state championship.

FRANCE: A blunder by veteran goalkeeper Ettori provides Paris Saint-Germain with a 1-0 win away to Monaco in a French Cup third round tie.

GERMANY: Bayer Leverkusen axe coach Reinhardt Saftig and bring in Dragoslav Stepanovic two months ahead of schedule after his acrimonious split with Eintracht Frankfurt.

5 MAY WEDNESDAY

ACTION: Juventus beat Borussia Dortmund 3-1 in Germany in the first leg of the UEFA Cup Final . . . Sao Paulo beat Cerro Porteno 1-0 in the first leg of their Libertadores Cup semi-final; Univ. Catolica beat America Cali 1-0 in Chile . . . Kuwait and Saudi Arabia draw 0-0 in the World Cup qualifiers while Malaysia thrash Macao 9-0, Japan beat Sri Lanka 6-0 and Thailand beat Bangladesh 4-1.

BRAZIL: Palmeiras striker Edmondo is banned for four months for shoving a referee in the face during the 2-1 Brazilian Cup defeat by Vitoria.

ENGLAND: Millwall goalkeeper Kasey Keller says he has been asked about his availability to play for the US in the US Cup '93, the Copa America and the CONCACAF Gold Cup. Earlier it had appeared the US management had felt Keller was not needed . . . England manager Graham Taylor names a 25-strong squad for the close-season matches in the World Cup and the US Cup '93. Paul Gascoigne is included, expecting to have long since recovered from his cheekbone fracture.

FRANCE: Marseille, fielding seven reserves, still beat Caen 2-1 in a third round domestic Cup tie.

JAPAN: Yasuhiko Okudera, director of JEF United, reports enormous interest building up ahead of the arrival of German World Cup-winner Pierre Littbarski from Koln.

PORTUGAL: Benfica beat Guimaraes 2-1 in a Cup semi-final.

SPAIN: Diego Maradona will not renew his one-year contract with Sevilla when it expires at the season's end, according to his agent, Marcos Franchi. Simultaneously the Spanish federation lifts an indefinite ban on Maradona, for avoiding their inquiry into the Cadiz-Sevilla dust-up, and substitute a £3,000 fine instead . . . Tenerife say Argentine Jorge Valdano will remain as coach again next season.

SWEDEN: Johnny Ekstrom, IFK striker, agrees to join Italian club Reggiana in the summer — if Reggiana are promoted.

ZAMBIA: The federation announces trials next week to create a new national team.

6 MAY THURSDAY

ENGLAND: Liverpool striker Ian Rush urges the board to act one way or the other to end intensive speculation over the future of manager Graeme Souness.

FRANCE: The draw for the Cup quarter-finals pairs Saint-Etienne against Marseille. To help Marseille's Champions' Cup Final preparations, the tie will be played on May 11. The remaining ties, including Paris Saint-Germain v Bordeaux, are set for May 18.

GERMANY: Kaiserslautern warn the DFB that they may seek a postponement of Friday's league match against Schalke because of an outbreak of food poisoning among the playing squad . . . Eintracht Frankfurt forward Edgar Schmitt says he wants to go in the wake of the club's agreement to buy Polish forward Jan Furtok from Hamburg at the season's end . . . Bayern Munich report £800,000 worth of souvenir sales — and that the playing squad's CD, Forever Number One, has now sold 10,000 copies . . . Wattenscheid extend the contract of coach Hannes Bongartz until 1995.

ITALY: Marco Van Basten says that, though he is still only 70 per cent fit, he is ready to start Sunday's match against Ancona.

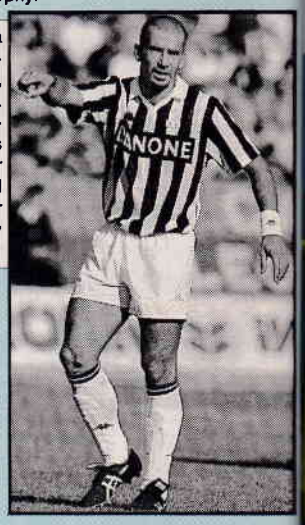
JAPAN: Gary Lineker scores two goals in three minutes as Gramus Eight beat Gremio of Brazil 3-1 in a friendly.

WALES: Cwmbran officials, who thought they had secured a place next season in the Champions' Cup, are furious to learn that UEFA has yet to meet to rule on club credibility of champions from Europe's new nations.

7 MAY FRIDAY

ENGLAND: The FA decide to charge Aston Villa with misconduct concerning transfer regulations in their signing of goalkeeper Mark Bosnich. Notts County are similarly charged over their signings of two other Australians, Bob Catlin and Shaun Murphy.

ITALY: Gianluca Vialli (right), unhappy to Juventus, decides to stay . . . Ruud Gullit considers extending his Milan contract for another season and then working for parent company Fininvest.



LEBANON: International football returns to Lebanon after 21 years with the start of one of the Asian World Cup qualifying groups. The hosts draw 2-2 with India.

SPAIN: Barcelona are reported to be interested in PSV striker Romario . . . Michel is voted Spanish Footballer of the Year by his fellow players; Michael Laudrup is voted Import of the Year.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA order that the Wankdorf stadium in Bern is too dangerous for any more international matches . . . UEFA decides that the Champions League clubs will receive a larger share of the income next season.

8 MAY SATURDAY

ACTION: The United States lose a friendly 2-1 at home to Colombia in Miami . . . Marseille twice come back from behind to win 3-2 away to Caen . . . Werder Bremen beat Dortmund 1-0 to pull level at the top with Bayern Munich in Germany . . . Valencia move closer to a UEFA Cup spot after beating Atletico Madrid 1-0.

SPAIN: Barcelona president Jose Luis Nunez says the Catalans will not increase their £5million bid for Romario of PSV Eindhoven.

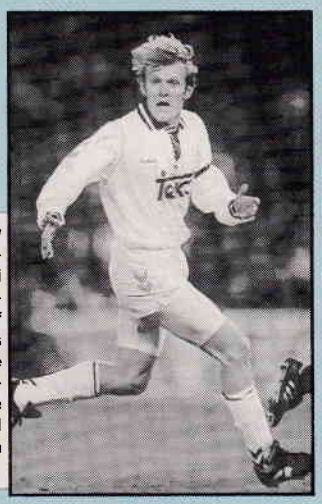
9 MAY SUNDAY

ACTION: Mexico become the first nation to qualify for the Wold Cup finals, winning 2-1 away to Canada in Toronto . . . in Asia, Lebanon draw 2-2 with Hong Kong and South Korea are held goalless by Bahrain in Beirut . . . Marco Van Basten scores his first goal of the year as Milan win 3-1 away to Ancona; Roberto Baggio scores a hat-trick for Juventus against Foggia . . . Jonk scores twice as Ajax thrash Feyenoord 5-2 . . . Barcelona beat Cadiz 4-1 to edge one point clear of Real Madrid who are held 1-1 at home by neighbours Rayo Vallecano.

ENGLAND: Liverpool end a week of dithering by announcing that Graeme Souness will stay as manager.

10 MAY MONDAY

JAPAN: The JFA extends for one further year the contract of national manager Hans Ooft in the wake of the team's progress to the second round of the Asian World Cup qualifiers . . . German veteran Pierre Littbarski arrives to play for JEF United of Furukawa.



SPAIN: New problems for Robert Prosinecki (right). Real Madrid medical staff say he will miss the rest of the season after tearing a muscle while shooting for goal in Sunday's match against Rayo.

11 MAY TUESDAY

ACTION: Hong Kong stay top in the Asian World Cup qualifying group in Beirut by defeating India 2-1.

FRANCE: Saint-Etienne beat Marseille 2-1 after extra time in a French Cup quarter-final.

ITALY: Paul Gascoigne is refused permission by Lazio to travel with England to the US Cup in mid-June.

12 MAY WEDNESDAY

ACTION: Parma beat Antwerp easily, by 3-1, in the Cup-winners' Cup Final at Wembley . . . in the World Cup, Bulgaria are held 2-2 at home by Israel and Malta make history by collecting their first win in the World Cup, by 1-0 in Estonia.

ENGLAND: Nottingham Forest are turned down by Wycombe Wanderers' boss Martin O'Neill and appoint Leyton Orient's Frank Clark as new manager in succession to Brian Clough. Clark had been a member of Forest's Champions' Cup-winning line-up under Clough.

GREECE: Panathinaikos beat old rivals Olympiakos1-0 in the Cup Final.

ITALY: David Platt denies reports that he poised to sign for Manchester United . . . the FIGC begins the necessary procedure towards having Roma declared bankrupt.

13 MAY THURSDAY

ACTION: Finland beat Austria 3-1 in the World Cup . . . in Beirut, Lebanon are held goalless by Bahrain while India lose yet again, this time by 3-0 to South Korea who duly go top of the group D table.

GERMANY: Dynamo Dresden will start next season with a four-point penalty for accounts irregularities. Observers are agreed that, if Dresden had not been the only "East German survivors" in the Bundesliga they would have been penalised with automatic relegation.

14 MAY FRIDAY

ACTION: Saeed Owairan and Hamza Idris each score hat-tricks as Saudi Arabia beat Macao 8-0 in an Asian Group E World Cup qualifier in Riyadh.

BELGIUM: Antwerp, in the wake of their Cup-winners' Cup Final defeat, confirm that Walter Meeuws is to quit as coach at the season's end to take over from Hans Dorjee at Gent.

ENGLAND: Tottenham owner Alan Sugar causes domestic football mayhem by dismissing Terry Venables as chief executive. Venables has the dismissal set aside by a late-night High Court injunction.

GERMANY: Werder Bremen suffer a title chase setback, losing 3-1 away to Borussia Mg (above). Dortmund also slip further back, crashing 4-0 at home to Stuttgart.

15 MAY SATURDAY

ACTION: Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday draw 1-1 after extra time in the FA Cup Final . . . Bangor beat Ards 1-0 in the Northern Ireland Cup Final.

JAPAN: The J.League opens with a spectacular opening ceremony before a capacity 62,000 crowd in the National Stadium. Yokohama Marinos beat Yomiuri Verdy 2-1 in the opening match: Argentina's Ramon Diaz scores the winner.

SWITZERLAND: The Federation, notwithstanding the disastrous attempt to bid for the 1998 World Cup finals, says it will bid to host the 2004 European Championship finals.

16 MAY SUNDAY

ACTION: Zico scores a hat-trick as Kashima Antlers open their J.League account by thrashing Gary Lineker's Grampus Eight 5-0 . . . Shelbourne beat Dundalk 1-0 in the Republic of Ireland Cup Final . . . Real Madrid pull level again in Spain, despite only drawing 1-1 with Celta. Simultaneously Barcelona lose 1-0 in Oviedo.

17 MAY MONDAY

ENGLAND: Arsenal draw 4-4 with Manchester United in a testimonial for veteran Irish defender David O'Leary . . . Newcastle and Sunderland make formal presentations to a UEFA delegation in search of the opportunity to be one of the host venues for the finals of the 1996 European Championship.

CONTINUED OVER

WHAT'S ON

JULY

FRIDAY, JULY 9
World Cup qualifiers, Asia Group B: Syria v Oman, Taiwan v Iran.
African Nations' Cup qualifier, Group 8: Egypt v Morocco.

SATURDAY, JULY 10
African Nations' Cup qualifier, Group 2: Uganda v Nigeria.

SUNDAY, JULY 11
World Cup qualifiers, Asia Group B: Taiwan v Oman, Syria v Iran.
African Nations' Cup qualifiers, Group 1: Benin v Cameroon, Gabon v Niger. **Group 2:** Sudan v Ethiopia. **Group 3:** Senegal v Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau v Togo. **Group 4:** Zaire v Kenya, Lesotho v Mozambique. **Group 5:** Zimbabwe v Mauritius, Zambia v South Africa. **Group 6:** Burundi v Guinea. **Group 8:** Mali v Malawi.

SATURDAY, JULY 17
World Cup qualifier, Africa 2nd rnd Group B: Senegal v Morocco.

SUNDAY, JULY 18
World Cup qualifiers, Africa 2nd rnd Group A: Ivory Coast v Algeria. **Group C:** Guinea v Cameroon.

SATURDAY, JULY 24
African Nations' Cup qualifiers, Group 2: Uganda v Sudan. **Group 3:** Togo v Sierra Leone. **Group 4:** Kenya v Mozambique. **Group 8:** Malawi v Morocco.

SUNDAY, JULY 25
World Cup qualifiers, South America Group B: Bolivia v Brazil, Venezuela v Uruguay.
African Nations' Cup qualifiers, Group 1: Benin v Gabon, Cameroon v Niger. **Group 3:** Algeria v Senegal. **Group 4:** Zaire v Lesotho. **Group 5:** Zimbabwe v Zambia, Mauritius v South Africa. **Group 6:** Congo v Guinea. **Group 7:** Liberia v Ghana. **Group 8:** Mali v Egypt.

AUGUST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1
World Cup qualifiers, South America Group A: Colombia v Paraguay, Peru v Argentina. **Group B:** Uruguay v Ecuador, Venezuela v Brazil.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8
World Cup qualifiers, South America Group A: Paraguay v Argentina, Peru v Colombia. **Group B:** Bolivia v Uruguay, Ecuador v Venezuela.

18 MAY TUESDAY

ACTION: In European Under-21 matches, Sweden and Austria draw 1-1 while Poland win 5-0 in San Marino . . . in the World Cup Asian qualifiers, Saudi Arabia score a vital 2-0 win over Kuwait.

ENGLAND: Tottenham director Jonathan Crystal, a Venables ally, is asked to resign by Alan Sugar . . . the FA refuse to allow Arsenal permission to show action-replays on giant screens during matches.

FRANCE: Paris Saint-Germain beat Bordeaux 2-0 to reach the semi-finals of the Cup.

SPAIN: Diego Maradona is charged with reckless driving near Sevilla.

19 MAY WEDNESDAY

ACTION: Sao Paulo beat Universidad Catolica 5-1 in the first leg of the Libertadores Cup Final . . . Juventus beat Borussia Dortmund 3-0 (6-1 on agg) in the second leg of the UEFA Cup Final . . . the World Cup qualifiers bring victories for Scotland (3-0 in Estonia), Poland (3-0 in San Marino) and Sweden (1-0 v Austria) . . . in the European Under-21s, Luxembourg lose 3-1 at home to Iceland.

CANADA: The national team squad "go public" with their unrest over the poor TV terms obtained for the weekend World Cup qualifier against Mexico.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Sparta beat FC Boby Brno 2-0 in the Czech Cup Final; Kosice beat Dunajska Streda 5-4 on penalties after a 0-0 draw in the Slovak Cup Final.

HOLLAND: Dordrecht and PSV play the second half of their league match which had been halted two weeks earlier because of a bomb threat. Dordrecht, 2-1 down at the restart, equalise for a 2-2 draw with a goal eight minutes from full time by Van der Gaag.

ITALY: Claudio Caniggia's appeal against his 13-month dope test failure suspension is rejected by the FIGC.

JAPAN: Grampus Eight score their first victory in the J.League, winning 3-0 away to Urawa Red Diamonds. Lineker sets up two of the goals.

PORTUGAL: Paulo Futre denies speculation that he is considering quitting Benfica already.

SPAIN: Diego Maradona, in court in Seville, denies driving through four red traffic lights. His licence is suspended pending a verdict.

20 MAY THURSDAY

ACTION: Luxembourg and Iceland draw 1-1 in the World Cup qualifiers.

BRAZIL: Renato Gaucho is sent off in his first game back after a three-month injury absence — dismissed along with two other players after appearing as a second-half substitute in Flamengo's 4-3 defeat of Gremio in a Cup semi-final.

ENGLAND: Arsenal pip Sheffield Wednesday 2-1 after extra time in the FA Cup Final replay . . . Steve Coppell quits as manager of relegated Crystal Palace.

FRANCE: Marseille edge closer to their fifth cosecutive league title with a 1-0 win away to Valenciennes . . . Marseille centre forward Rudi Voller says he is considering an offer to end his career in Japan.

HOLLAND: Ajax beat Second Division Heerenveen 6-2 in the Cup Final.

JAPAN: Zico is ruled out for three weeks after pulling a thigh muscle in Wednesday's 3-2 win over Yokohama Flugels.

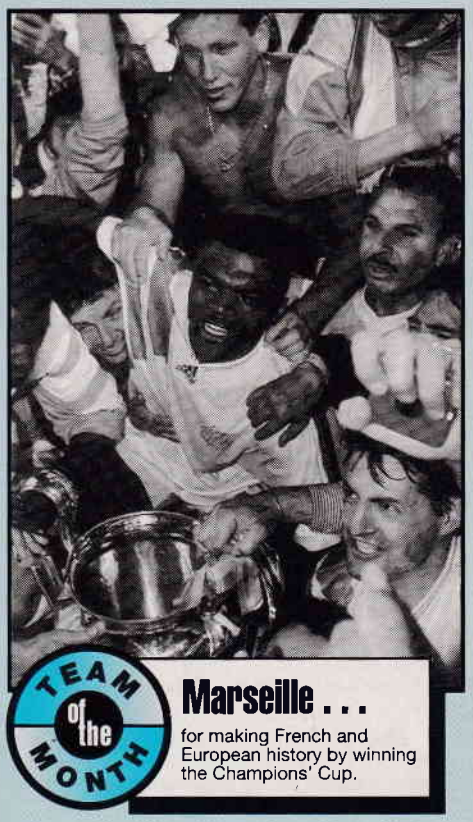
URUGUAY: National boss Luis Cubilla reports a truce with Italy-based stars Sosa, Francescoli, Fonseca and Aguilera, and names them in his squad for the Copa America.

21 MAY FRIDAY

FRANCE: Jacques Glassman of Valenciennes says he was approached by a Marseille official before Thursday's league game and asked if he would help fix the match. Marseille deny the claim.

ITALY: Milan draw 1-1 away to Cagliari in a match brought forward to aid Milan's preparations for the Champions' Cup Final. Substitute Evani of Milan and Festa of Cagliari are sent off in the 85th minute . . . businessmen Pietro Mezzaroma and Franco Sensi, both former Roma directors, save the club from the threat of bankruptcy by buying a controlling interest from Italfin 80, the company of disgraced former president Giuseppe Ciarrapico . . . Ruben Sosa says he does not want, after all, to play for Uruguay in the Copa America because he has had a long, hard season and the Copa would spoil his preparations for the World Cup qualifiers.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA report that the kick-in experiment at the Swiss Blue Star youth tournament (won by Barcelona) has been a success.



TEAM of the MONTH

Marseille . . .

for making French and European history by winning the Champions' Cup.

22 MAY SATURDAY

ACTION: In the World Cup, Jordan draw 1-1 with Yemen, China beat Pakistan 5-0 and Belgium beat the Faroe Islands 3-0 . . . in a European Under-21 tie, Russia and Greece draw 1-1 . . . in Germany, Uerdingen crash 5-2 at home to Eintracht Frankfurt then protest that, for four minutes, Frankfurt had breached the complex import regulations . . . Gary Lineker scores at last for Grampus Eight, albeit in a 4-3 penalty shoot-out victory over Yokohama Marinos.

FRANCE: The federation launches an official inquiry into Valenciennes' claims that match-fix attempts were made before Thursday's league game against Marseille.

23 MAY SUNDAY

ACTION: Greece qualify for the World Cup finals for the first time by drawing 1-1 with Russia in Moscow . . . the United States draw 0-0 with Bolivia in Fullerton, California . . . the Argentine league match between relegation-threatened Talleres of Cordoba and River Plate is abandoned by referee Castrilli after 76 minutes when a crowd invasion follows his decision to award River Plate an equalising penalty . . . Sao Paulo beat neighbours Corinthians 2-0 in their third game in five days in the Paulista Championship . . . Union Espanola beat Cobreloa 3-1 in the Chilean Cup Final. Everton beat Universidad de Chile 4-1 for third place . . . defender Wilmer Cabrera scores two own goals as Colombian champions America Cali go down 2-1 to Perreira . . . a mistake by goalkeeper Van Breukelen condemns PSV to a potentially decisive 1-0 defeat by Vitesse Arnhem . . . Inter, held 1-1 at home by Foggia, virtually concede the Italian title to Milan. Inter's match is marred by controversy when De Agostini is sent off by mistake by the referee, who should have punished Tramezzani . . . Monterrey and Atlante qualify for the Mexican championship final . . . Zamorano scores a hat-trick in Real Madrid's 5-0 defeat of Sevilla which keeps them level on points with Barcelona (who beat Rayo 4-0).

COLOMBIA: Atletico Junior of Baranquilla sign unsettled Ivan Rene Valenciano back from Italy's Atalanta.

FRANCE: Saint-Etienne are drawn home to Nantes in the Cup semi-finals. In the other semi Paris Saint-Germain will be home to Second Division Laval.

24 MAY MONDAY

ACTION: In the World Cup Asian section, Jordan and Iraq draw 1-1 while Yemen beat Pakistan 5-1 . . . New Zealand beat Fiji 5-0 in a friendly.

BRAZIL: Sao Paolo police report more than 30 fans were hurt when a fence collapsed outside the turnstiles at the Morumbi stadium before Sunday's derby between Sao Paulo FC and Corinthians.

GERMANY: Wynton Rufer tells the New Zealand federation he will miss the World Cup qualifiers against Australia because he prefers to help Werder Bremen bid to snatch the German league title from Bayern Munich . . . Numberg agree that Sergio Zarate will return after a year wandering to Ancona and Velez Sarsfield . . . Bayer Uerdingen submit a formal protest that Eintracht Frankfurt exceeded the foreigners limit in Saturday's league game which Uerdingen lost 5-2.

25 MAY TUESDAY

ACTION: Northern Ireland win 1-0 in Lithuania in the World Cup.

DENMARK: Richard Moller Nielsen calls up intried striker Martin Johansen from FC Copenhagen into the World Cup squad for the tie against Albania.

ENGLAND: A High Court judge refuses to overturn a temporary stay on Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar dismissing Terry Venables as chief executive. A full hearing is set for June 8.

GERMANY: Milan coach Fabio Capello picks Daniele Massaro as attacking partner for Marco Van Basten for the Champions' Cup Final against Marseille in Munich. Jean-Pierre Papin or Ruud Gullit will contest a place on the bench and a place in the stand.

JAPAN: Marinos midfielder Everton becomes the first player suspended in the J.League. He must miss two games as punishment for pursuing English referee Martin Bodenham after the penalty shoot-out defeat by Grampus Eight.

SPAIN: Diego Maradona misses an anti-drugs charity match in Barcelona, telephoning apologises and claiming he missed his flight from Seville.

26 MAY WEDNESDAY

ACTION: Marseille become the first French club to win any European trophy as they defeat favourites Milan 1-0 in the Champions' Cup Final in Munich. Basile Boli scores the vital goal after 43 minutes . . . Sao Paulo win the Liberyadores Cup for a second successive year, losing the second leg of the final 2-0 away to Universidad Catolica in Chile but winning 5-3 on aggregate . . . the Irish Republic win 2-1 away to Albania in a World Cup qualifier.

JAPAN: Gary Lineker scores his first goal in open play but Grampus Eight lose 2-1 at home to Yokohama Flugels.

RUSSIA: CSKA Moscow and Torpedo will meet in the Cup final after both clubs win their semi-finals 1-0 against, respectively, Moscow Dynamo and Druzhba Maikop.

SPAIN: A judge rules that Diego Maradona, already arraigned on charges of driving through four red traffic lights, must also face a trial on a charge of failing to stop for police.

27 MAY THURSDAY

BRAZIL: Carlos Alberto Parreira names a makeshift national squad for the US Cup '93, without many of the key foreign-based players and including two men in Elivelton (Sao Paulo) and Taffarel (Parma) who are not first-team regulars with their clubs.

ENGLAND: Irish Republic midfielder Roy Keane tells Frank Clark, new manager of relegated Nottingham Forest, that he does not want to play First Division football.

FRANCE: Marseille agree terms to sell Franck Sauzee to Atalanta.

GERMANY: The DFB's sports court penalises Eintracht Frankfurt two league points for fielding one foreigner too many in the weekend's 5-2 hammering of Bayer Uerdingen.

HOLLAND: Dennis Bergkamp scores twice in his last home match for Ajax in a 5-1 defeat of Fortuna Sittard.

ITALY: Frank Rijkaard confirms reports in the Dutch press the previous morning that he will leave Milan when his contract expires at the end of the season.

SCOTLAND: The League's annual meeting votes for change. From 1994-95 the league will switch to four divisions of 10 clubs each instead of the present three divisions with 12 clubs in the top two divisions and 14 in the other.

SPAIN: Javier Clemente names seven Barcelona players in the World Cup squad to visit Lithuania.

28 MAY FRIDAY

ACTION: Iraq beat Pakistan 8-0 in a World Cup Asian qualifier . . . Poland lose 4-1 at home to England in a European Under-21 qualifier.

AUSTRIA: FK Austria bid to buy veteran forward Toni Polster, now with Spain's Rayo Vallecano.

FRANCE: Marseille president Bernard Tapie says Pele is likely to be transferred shortly to an Italian club. Coach Rayond Goethals confirms he will retire once the French league season has ended.

GERMANY: Eintracht Frankfurt appeal against the two-point deduction imposed for their foreigners infraction against Uerdingen.

ITALY: Ruud Gullit says he wants to leave Milan because his exclusion from the Champions' Cup Final squad shows that "the club's attitude to me has changed."

29 MAY SATURDAY

ACTION: England escape with a 1-1 draw from their World Cup qualifier in Poland . . . New Zealand lose 1-0 at home to Australia in the first leg of their Oceania World Cup play-off . . . the Irish Republic lose 4-2 at home in Dublin to Hungary in David O'Leary's testimonial . . . Marseille hit back from a goal down to beat Paris Saint-Germain 3-1. Crowd trouble, provoked by PSG-supporting extremists, leads to 14 injuries . . . Werder Bremen overtake Bayern Munich at the top in Germany. Both clubs win but Bremen's 5-0 defeat of Hamburg gives them a one-goal advantage over Bayern, who beat Bochum 3-1 . . . Rangers achieve the Scottish double as the league champions add the Cup by defeating Aberdeen 2-1 in the Final.

SPAIN: Sevilla are reported to be interested in replacing coach Carlos Bilardo with Dutchman Leo Beenhakker, currently with Grasshopper of Switzerland.

30 MAY SUNDAY

ACTION: Feyenoord win the Dutch league title by winning 5-1 at Groningen and finish two points ahead of outgoing champions PSV, who are held 2-2 at home by Volendam . . . Milan gain some consolation for their Munich upset by securing the Italian title, with one game to go, thanks to a 1-1 home draw against Brescia . . . Porto secure the Portuguese title, also with one game to go, thanks to a 1-0 win away to Beira-Mar. Benfica are only two points behind but Porto have the better, decisive record in the mutual matches . . . Real Madrid go top in Spain, drawing 0-0 away to Osasuna while Barcelona, surprisingly, lose 3-2 away to Celta Vigo.

ARGENTINA: The league programme is postponed after referees go on strike in protest at Talleres' bid in court to overturn their abandoned game with River Plate.

31 MAY MONDAY

FRANCE: Paris Saint-Germain scrap all plans for supporters' away trips after the crowd trouble in the 3-1 defeat by Marseille.

GERMANY: Berti Vogts names his squad for the US Cup '93 without Cup finalists Ulf Kirsten and Andreas Thom (Leverkusen) and Thomas Hassler (Roma).

1 JUNE TUESDAY

ACTION: In the European Under-21 championship, Norway draw 1-1 with England, Czechoslovakia beat Romania 4-2 and Sweden beat Israel 4-1.

ARGENTINA: State president Carlos Menem tries to solve the referees' dispute, proposing that relegation be scrapped this season in an attempt to persuade Talleres to drop their legal protest over the consequences of their abandoned 2-2 draw against River Plate.

HOLLAND: Dick Advocaat has to select his World Cup squad for the game against Norway without injured Van Basten and Gullit.

ICELAND: Bosnian-born defender Izudin Dervic is selected to make his Iceland debut in the World Cup qualifier against Russia.

ITALY: Jean-Pierre Papin says that, unless Milan guarantee him a first-team place next season, he will consider taking up one of two offers tabled by Lazio and Real Madrid . . . Inter's appeal to have their 1-1 draw against Foggia replayed — because of the mistaken-identity expulsion of De Agostini — is rejected by the FIGC.

SCOTLAND: The SFA turns down an offer of £1million from the English FA in a dispute over the scheduled Sky satellite transmission of the English Charity Shield on August 7, directly against a full Scottish league programme . . . national captain Richard Gough (below) quits international football, announcing his decision in a newspaper "exclusive" highly critical of national coach Andy Roxburgh.

SWEDEN: IFK's Johnny Ekstrom asks to be omitted from the World Cup tie against Israel after the collapse of talks on a proposed transfer to Italian club Reggiana.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA reject Aston Villa's claim for a share of the transfer fee raised by Bari when they sold David Platt to Juventus last year.

UNITED STATES: The US are drawn to start their CONCACAF Gold Cup campaign against Jamaica in Dallas on July 10. Group B — and the eventual July 25 Final — will be staged in Mexico City.

2 JUNE WEDNESDAY

ACTION: A busy World Cup night brings victories for Scotland (3-1 v Estonia), Norway (2-0 v England), Spain (2-0 in Lithuania), Denmark (4-0 v Albania), Northern Ireland (2-1 in Latvia), Czechoslovakia (5-2 v Romania) and Sweden (5-0 v Israel). Ironically Russia, held 1-1 by Iceland, find the single point is enough to secure them a place in the finals in the United States next year.

FRANCE: Marseille lose 3-1 at Toulouse on the last day of the league season but still finish four points clear of Paris SG and Monaco.

ITALY: Marco Van Basten, still troubled by his damaged ankle, agrees to exploratory surgery in Belgium. Milan, simultaneously, announce plans for a close-season tour to South Africa and Australia.

JAPAN: J.League officials say that the busy fixture schedule will be eased next year, after criticism from some of the league's foreign stars.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA World Cup organising committee receives a formal application from Germany to host the 2006 World Cup. The committee also decides that the 1994 finalists should decide in December whether to move to three points for a win in next year's first round.

3 JUNE THURSDAY

BRAZIL: Cruzeiro win the Brazil Cup, defeating Gremio 2-1 in the second leg of the final (and 2-1 on aggregate).

FRANCE: State President Francois Mitterrand formally congratulates Marseille on their Champions' Cup victory . . . Monaco agree to buy Belgium's Enzo Scifo from Torino . . . Raymond Goethals denies that he is retiring from Marseille to take up a back-room post with Anderlecht.

ITALY: Napoli striker Careca, heading off to join the Brazil squad for the US Cup '93, says he will not return to Italy and is considering offers from Japan (Gamba Osaka) and Brazil (Flamengo).

NORWAY: Norwegian police, having deported 75 English hooligans without charge, say they will furnish all necessary evidence if the British authorities want to prosecute.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA's executive committee, meeting in Zurich, decides: 1, to allow international friendly matches in Iraq, as long as visiting teams accept full liability; 2, to set up a special fund for victims of the Zambian air disaster; 3, to confirm Oceania in the Asian sphere for future World Cup qualifiers; 4, to allow Olympic Games finalists in Atlanta in 1996 to field three over-age players; 5, to award hosting rights for the 1995 Women's World Cup to Sweden; 6, to set up, in conjunction with UEFA, a working group to study the membership application prospects of Macedonia; 7, to award the 1992 Fair Play prize to the Belgian federation for its Football in Peace campaign and children's aid work in Mexico.

UNITED STATES: Bora Milutinovic names eight European-based players in his squad for the US Cup '93.

4 JUNE FRIDAY

BRAZIL: Carlos Alberto Parreira adds five players from Sao Paulo to his squad for the US Cup '93 following Sao Paulo's midweek elimination in the Sao Paulo state championship.

CHINA: Newspapers demand the dismissal of German coach Klaus Schlappner after the poor results of the national team in the World Cup qualifiers.

ENGLAND: Chelsea appoint Swindon's Glenn Hoddle as new manager . . . Nottingham Forest sell Nigel Clough to Liverpool for £2million.

GERMANY: Kaiserslautern buy Andy Brehme from Zaragoza of Spain. Brehme had begun his senior career with Kaiserslautern before playing for Bayern Munich, Internazionale and Zaragoza.

PORTUGAL: Carlos Queiroz names David Nascimento, of Dutch side Roda JC Kerkrade, in his squad for the World Cup tie against Malta.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA bans Atletico Madrid president Jesus Gil from his club's next six European ties as a consequence of his behaviour at the Cup-winners' Cup semi-final against Parma. Atletico are also fined £40,000 and five players receive varying suspensions, including a five-game ban on the Leverkusen-bound, German veteran midfielder Bernd Schuster.

5 JUNE SATURDAY

ACTION: In the World Cup, South Korea beat Hong Kong 4-1 while Bahrain draw 0-0 with Lebanon . . . Velez Sarsfield lose 2-0 at home to Rosario Central but stay top in Argentina with a three-point lead over Independiente . . . Werder Bremen win the German title on a dramatic last day, winning 3-0 away to Stuttgart while Bayern Munich

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(level on points) are held 3-3 away to Schalke . . . no change at the top in Spain as Real Madrid win 2-0 at home to Real Sociedad while Barcelona, one point behind, win 2-1 at home to Sevilla . . . FC Aarau win their first Swiss league title, beating Sion 2-1 to go five points clear of Young Boys with two games to play.

6 JUNE SUNDAY

ACTION: World Cup activity brings victories for Wales (3-0 away to Faroe Islands) and Australia (3-0 at home to New Zealand and 4-0 on aggregate to earn a tie with Canada) . . . the United States lose 2-0 at home to Brazil in the opening match of the US Cup '93 (right) . . . Standard Liege beat Charleroi 2-0 in the Belgian Cup Final . . . Corinthians beat Palmeiras 1-0 in the first leg of the Paulista championship play-off final . . . Kosice thrash champions Sparta 5-1 in the last Czechoslovak Cup Final . . . Paris Saint-Germain (1-0 v Laval) and Nantes (1-0 v Saint-Etienne) win their French Cup semi-finals . . . AEK Athens beat Olympiakos 3-1 on the last day of the Greek season to retain the league title . . . on the last day of the Italian Serie A season Fiorentina are relegated for the first time in 55 years despite winning their last game 6-2 against Foggia.

COLOMBIA: World Cup goalkeeper Rene Higuita is arrested and held in custody on charges alleging that he broke a new law forbidding ransom negotiations. Higuita is accused of obtaining the release of a hostage held on behalf of on-the-run drugs boss Pablo Escobar.

7 JUNE MONDAY

ACTION: In the Asian World Cup qualifiers, Bahrain beat India 3-0 but remain four points behind South Korea, who beat Lebanon 2-0.

ENGLAND: New Chelsea manager Glenn Hoddle appoints old friend Graham Rix (ex-Arsenal, Caen, Le Havre and Dundee) as coach.

GERMANY: Hamburg buy Danish midfielder Stig Tofting from Aarhus . . . Kaiserslautern dismiss coach Rainer Zobel.

ITALY: Udinese goalkeeper Giuliano Giuliani, out all season with knee trouble, is arrested, taken into custody, then released without being charged in a police investigation into a drugs ring . . . Genoa striker Tomas Skuhravy confirms, now the season is over, he will undergo surgery on a knee injury which has been troubling him through the second half of the campaign.

ROMANIA: Cornel Dinu is dismissed as national coach in the wake of the 5-2 World Cup defeat by Czechoslovakia.

8 JUNE TUESDAY

ACTION: Holland beat Norway 2-1 in the European Under-21 championship.

FRANCE: The federation launches court proceedings over allegations, denied by Marseille, that official Jean-Pierre Bernes and player Jean Eydelie offered opposing players bribes to fix a decisive league match against Valenciennes.

GERMANY: The DFB does not deny it expects to bring back more than £1million from the national team's trip to the US Cup '93 . . . Lothar Matthaus says he intends staying with Bayern Munich despite remarks attributed to general manager Uli Hoeness about the television show fronted by Matthaus's girlfriend Lolita . . . Eintracht Frankfurt agree terms to buy Maurizio Gaudino from Stuttgart in exchange for Axel Kruse and £850,000 . . . Klaus Sammer, dismissed as coach by Dresden in April, is restored to his post by an industrial tribunal, which approves an application for an injunction by Sammer alleging wrongful dismissal.

HOLLAND: PSV Eindhoven sack assistant coach Frank Arnesen for criticising the club in a magazine interview.

SPAIN: Diego Maradona offers to play in a European All-Stars' team against a German side in Kiel to raise money for dependents of the Turkish families killed by a fire-bomb attack by neo-nazis in Solingen.

SWITZERLAND: Grasshopper coach Leo Beenhakker, linked with Sevilla last week, is now linked with German club Dynamo Dresden . . . UEFA reduce fines imposed on Rangers and Brugge for misbehaviour by fans of both clubs at the March 3 Champions League tie.

9 JUNE WEDNESDAY

ACTION: In the World Cup, Holland are held goalless at home by group two leaders Norway; the Irish Republic win 2-0 in Latvia; South Korea thrash India 7-0; Lebanon beat Hong Kong 2-1 . . . in the US Cup '93 a tired, under-strength England lose 2-0 to the United States in Foxboro, Boston.

BELGIUM: Specialist surgeon Marc Maertens operates again on Marco Van Basten's damaged ankle, in Antwerp, then warns that he may never play again.

FRANCE: Cannes draw 1-1 with Valenciennes to defeat them 3-1 on aggregate in the second leg of their play-off and win promotion back to the top division.

ITALY: Ruud Gullit and Milan announce that he is leaving the club "by mutual consent." Neither side rules out the possibility that he may later return to take up a post with the club or with parent company Fininvest.

MEXICO: The national team tell the federation they will refuse to play at the Copa America unless all players in Mexico are given the right to turn down transfer proposals reached by clubs "over their heads."

SPAIN: Real Madrid draw 1-1 with Barcelona in their Cup semi-final first leg in the Estadio Bernabeu. Zamorano and Baquero score the goals.

UNITED STATES: Olaf Thon is ruled out of Germany's US Cup '93 effort after dislocating a shoulder in a training accident.

10 JUNE THURSDAY

ACTION: Germany, remarkably, hit back from 3-0 down at half-time to draw 3-3 with Brazil in the US Cup '93 in Washington.

BRAZIL: Vasco da Gama beat Fluminense 2-0 in the first leg of the Rio championship final.

COLOMBIA: Rene Higuita is remanded in custody on charges of acting illegally as an intermediary in obtaining the release of a hostage held by a drugs gang.

ENGLAND: The media leads hysterical reaction to England's defeat by the United States, calling for the head of Graham Taylor . . . Brian Clough denies allegations, produced in the resumed High Court struggle between Tottenham rivals Alan Sugar and Terry Venables, that he was paid a cash sum on completion of the transfer of Teddy Sheringham from Nottingham Forest last summer.

FRANCE: Andre Laurent quits as president of Saint-Etienne after a long-running row with the club's supermarket sponsor.

PORTUGAL: Benfica beat Boavista 5-2 in the Cup Final with two goals from Paulo Futre.

SPAIN: Valencia and Zaragoza draw 1-1 in a Cup semi-final first leg.

11 JUNE FRIDAY

ACTION: Lebanon win again in the Asian World Cup qualifiers, defeating India 2-1; but Bahrain stay one point ahead of Lebanon — albeit four points behind leaders South Korea — by beating Hong Kong 3-0.

BRAZIL: The CBF releases Carlos Alberto Parreira's squad of players for the Copa America. Parma goalkeeper Taffarel is the only foreign-based player.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Security commandos hired from the police attack celebrating fans of champions Sparta after a last-match 2-1 defeat of Tatran Presov. Later club president Petr Mach announces that the commandos will no longer be hired by the club for security duties.

ENGLAND: The Premier League's first annual meeting agrees that next season goalkeepers may wear different coloured shorts and socks to their team-mates, that players will wear squad numbers 1-22 with their names on their shirts and that teams will come out together before kick-off.

HOLLAND: PSV Eindhoven dismiss coach Hans Westerhof after less than a year in charge.

ITALY: Ruud Gullit sends his apologies to Nelson Mandela as Milan fly off to South Africa without him. Gullit stays in Europe to negotiate a transfer with Bayern Munich.

NORWAY: National captain Rune Bratseth undergoes knee surgery which will keep him out of action for at least three months.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA report that drugs spot checks were carried out at 32 random European club ties in the past season without any proving positive.

TURKEY: Besiktas are linked with Israeli striker Ronny Rosenthal, who has been released by Liverpool.

OBITUARY

JOHN ATYEO, perhaps the English west country's finest footballer, aged 61. Atyeo played centre forward or inside-right for Bristol City in the late 1950s and the 1960s. He scored five goals in six matches for England — including one on his debut against Spain in 1955. Atyeo rejected transfer opportunities to bigger clubs and remained loyal to Ashton Gate, scoring 350 goals in 647 games for City.

ANGELO LONGONI, 1950s forward of Lecce, Milan, Atalanta and Lazio, dies aged 60. Longoni scored twice against Austria in 1956 on his only appearance for the Italy national team.

ARCHIE MACAULAY, former Scotland international, dies aged 77. Macaulay played seven times for Scotland and for Arsenal, West Ham, Fulham and Brentford. His greatest achievement was perhaps managing the Norwich Third Division side who reached the FA Cup semi-finals in 1959.

MEL REES, Sheffield United goalkeeper, dies aged 26 after a recurrence of cancer. Rees had returned to training earlier this year after surgery last year. He led out United's team at the FA Cup semi-final against Sheffield Wednesday at Wembley in April. Rees played previously for Cardiff, Watford and West Bromwich and on loan to Crewe, Southampton, Leyton Orient and Norwich.

GYORGY SAROSI, one of the world's greatest footballers between the wars, dies in his adopted home of Genoa, Italy, aged 81. Sarosi was born on September 16, 1912, in Budapest where he duly played all his club career for FTC (Ferencvaros), scoring 349 goals in 383 games. He won the Hungarian championship eight times, the Cup once and the Mitropa Cup once. Sarosi scored 42 goals in 75 internationals, captaining Hungary to the 1938 World Cup Final. Doctor, lawyer and magistrate, he made his debut for Hungary in a 3-2 defeat by Italy in Turin in November, 1931. Sarosi fled Hungary on the communist takeover in 1947, moving to Italy where he coached Padova, Lucchese, Bari, Juventus (winners of the 1952 championship), Genoa, Roma, Bologna and Brescia. He also coached Lugano in Switzerland.

J.LEAGUE
RESULTS

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Kashima Antlers	7	5	2	17	6	5
Sanfrecce Hiroshima	7	5	2	11	6	5
JEF United	7	4	3	14	7	4
Verdy Kawasaki	7	4	3	11	9	4
Shimizu S Pulse	7	4	3	10	10	4
Yokohama Flugels	7	3	4	12	11	3
Gamba Osaka	7	3	4	6	10	3
Yokohama Marinos	7	3	4	5	10	3
Grampus Eight	7	3	4	7	15	3
Urawa Red Diamonds	7	1	6	2	11	1

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 30

MIDWEEK

JEF UNITED 1 (Myslivecek 72)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0.
Att: 45,033.

SANFREECE HIROSHIMA 1 (Takagi 57)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 0.
Att: 12,858.

GAMBA OSAKA 1 (Nagashima 39)
SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Edu 67).
Att: 16,707. (aet, Shimizu won 7-6 on pens).

VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Hanssen 72)
KASHIMA ANTLERS 0. Att: 9,816.

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 1 (Lineker 89)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 2 (Maeda 47, Edu 60).
Att: 12,544.

WEEKEND

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Angelo 11)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 2 (Cerny 51, Kazama 80). **Att:** 15,141.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 4 (Santos 17, Hasegawa 23, 71, Alcindo 37)
GAMBA OSAKA 0. Att: 14,058.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 1 (Kawano 49)
VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Hashiratani 6). **Att:** 9,690
(aet, Urawa won 4-2 on pens).

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 0
JEF UNITED 5 (Kageyama 13, Ihara o.g. 38, Pavel 47, Ejiri 51, Littbarski 82).
Att: 11,152.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 0
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 0.
Att: 50,475. (aet, Grampus win 6-5 on pens).

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 6

MIDWEEK

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 1 (Pita 55 pen)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 4 (Takagi 6, Kojima 47, Kazama 72, Moriyasu 78). **Att:** 11,466.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 2 (Alcindo 24, Carlos 91)
JEF UNITED 1 (Makino 87).
Att: 15,194.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 1 (Noda 77). **Att:** 9,088.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 0
GAMBA OSAKA 1 (Nagashima 36). **Att:** 9,725.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 2 (Edu 67, Aoshima 87)
VERDY KAWASAKI 4 (Hashiratani 48, Takeda 65, Kitazawa 71, Miura 89).
Att: 18,1134.

WEEKEND

VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Takeda 51)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Aldrovani 53). **Att:** 54,495.
(aet, Verdy won 5-4 on pens)

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 1 (Moriyama 71)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0.
Att: 14,605.

JEF UNITED 1 (Ejiri 35)
SHIMIZU S PULSE 2 (Edu 43, Hasegawa 116).
Att: 9,427.

GAMBA OSAKA 3 (Nagashima 15, 37, 84)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 1 (Jorginho 9).
Att: 38,304.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 0
KASHIMA ANTLERS 2 (Santos 14, Alcindo 56).
Att: 28,595.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **Alcindo** (Kashima Antlers) 6
2 ..... **Nagashima** (Gamba Osaka) 5
Maeda (Yokohama Flugels) 5
4 ..... **Edu** (Shimizu S Pulse) 4
5 ..... **Littbarski** (JEF United) 3
Pavel (JEF United) 3
Ejiri (JEF United) 3
Zico (Kashima Antlers) 3
Hasegawa (Kashima Antlers) 3
Carlos (Kashima Antlers) 3
Toninho (Shimizu S Pulse) 3
Kazama (Sanfrecce Hiroshima) 3
Takeda (Verdy Kawasaki) 3

NOT SO GOOD FOR GARY

Injuries mar J.League's early months

GARY LINEKER'S brief career in Japan came to a sharp stop with the news that he was playing on a broken foot.

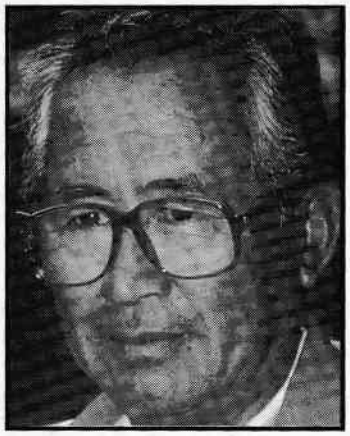
His record for the first half of the J.League shows one goal in five games.

Lineker was not looking as sharp as he can, but he had not been getting the service, either. His only goal was an 89th-minute header from a corner against Yokohama Flugels: too late to save Grampus Eight from a 2-1 defeat.

Only two victories from penalty shoot-outs stood between Grampus and the bottom of the table.

But nobody realised that Lineker was playing in so much pain. He missed the match with Sanfrecce Hiroshima due to an "aching right instep", was back in the starting line-up to meet Gamba Osaka the following Wednesday, but had to go off soon after half-time.

Manager Ryuzo Hiraki (below) first spoke of resting him for two or three games, but examination revealed a



fracture that will keep him out for two months.

Lineker is not the only foreign star injured in the early days of the J.League. Zico tore a muscle in his right thigh against Yokohama Flugels, only three days after his hat-trick against Lineker's Nagoya in the opening game, and was out of action until mid-June. At Shimizu S Pulse, Toninho will be missing for four months, due to a knee operation.

Injuries are to some extent inevitable, especially for senior players, but the schedule is partly to blame.

Two games a week every week place a heavy strain on the players. The lack of leeway for rescheduling means some matches have been played when they might well have been postponed.

Even so, interest in the new League shows no sign of abating. You cannot even ride a train these days without hearing children talking about football.

Every magazine from *Josei Jishin (Woman Herself)* to the *Far Eastern Economic Review* have stories that cater to every need. The former tells what's sexy; the latter explains to foreigners where the money is.

Every match is a Cup final with painted fans dancing in the stands and hosts of flags and banners. Every home game for Verdy Kawasaki, Yokohama Marinos, Urawa Reds and Kashima Atnlers was sold out by the third week of the season. Other tickets, though available, are hard to trace.

The official crowd figures tell just part of the story, for only the fans who buy tickets directly are counted. Quite a few are given out by the sponsors.

Fears that the boom would fade as quickly as it started have been spectacularly misplaced. So had expectations that the competition would be dominated by last year's powerhouses: Verdy (formerly Yomiuri) and Marinos (Nissan).

Marinos, reinforced by Ramon Diaz and fresh from their Asian Cup-winners' Cup triumph in April, already look virtually out of the running.

This is good news for the J.League in general, because all other teams have been able to gather support. It is anybody's league. The early pace-setters are unfancied Kashima Antlers, Sanfrecce Hiroshima and JEF United.

Alcindo of Kashima scored six goals in seven matches, and with Zico returning, the little town in Ibaraki Prefecture is the best bet to win the first league series.

At JEF United, Littbarski is the rage. Three goals in seven games tell only part of the story. The whole team have developed and speeded up, leading to a 5-0 win away to Marinos. JEF were four up by the 51st minute and would have scored more if Pavel Rehak had not been sent off.

"Japan?", says Littbarski, "I love it. The environment's great. The fans are kind. My team-mates respect me. Everything's going well."

Ramon Diaz at Marinos is not so happy. He has not scored since his winner in the opening game, and has not touched the ball much, either.

Everton remains the key foreign player for Marinos. That 5-0 crushing by JEF came when Everton was suspended for two games after a clash with British referee Martin Bodenham.

MIKE **PLASTOW** AND MICHI **ISHIJIMA**

A TRIUMPH FOR BEIRUT

LEBANON did not win a single World Cup qualifier in the opening round of matches in Asian Group E, but they were clear winners in Beirut.

The war-ravaged city, where buildings lie in ruins and electricity runs for only six days a week, played host to ten trouble-free matches in the World Cup.

They went out of their way to ensure the success of the tournament, accommodating players from South Korea, India, Bahrain and Hong Kong in $200-a-day rooms on the Beirut beachfront and spending some $400,000 refurbishing a stadium in the Christian sector.

Organisers even designed their own logo for the week-long event, and it was proudly placed around the city.

The stadium at Borj Hammoud was filled to capacity for all Lebanon's matches and showed open seats only when group winners South Korea's final match, against Hong Kong, clashed with live television coverage of another game.

On the pitch, there was little to enthuse over for the Lebanese fans, who for the first time found common cause for national sentiment over the religious divide.

Despite the poor performance of their team, there was a great sense of pride in their hosting of the qualifiers — a symbol of the country's slow return to normality.

South Korea, Asia's representatives at the last two World Cup finals, were comfortable leaders after the first series of matches in Beirut and then proceeded to wrap up the group's top spot in Seoul.

South Korea, North Korea, Japan and Saudi Arabia will play in the final group tournament later this year. The other places still have to be determined, but are likely to be filled by Iran and Iraq.

● AL ANSAR won the Lebanese title for the fifth time in a row, taking 54 points from 32 games and finishing nine ahead of Al Safa, second on goal difference ahead of Al Neejmeh. Fadi Alloush was top scorer with 27 of Al Ansar's 79 goals.

MARK **GLEESON**

THE SEVEN-GOAL-A-GAME GAMES

FANS will have little reason for complaint if next year's World Cup is as goal-packed as the first East Asian Games in Shanghai.

The 15 matches produced an average of exactly seven goals each, with poor Macao conceding 52 of them.

South Korea took nine points from their five round-robin matches, to win the gold medal and leave North Korea with the silver, a point behind.

China took bronze by finishing third with seven points, followed by Japan with four, Mongolia with two and Macao with none.

AZAM **MAHMOOD**

1993 East Asian Games *(Shanghai)*

North Korea v Japan 2-0
South Korea v Macao 12-0
China v Mongolia 6-1
South Korea v Japan 5-0
North Korea v Mongolia 7-0
China v Macao 11-0
South Korea v Mongolia 10-0
Japan v Macao 19-0
China v North Korea 1-1
North Korea v Macao 6-0
South Korea v China 1-0
Japan v Mongolia 9-0
Mongolia v Macao 4-3
South Korea v North Korea 1-1
China v Japan 3-2

Final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea	5	4	1	0	29	1	9
North Korea	5	3	2	0	17	2	8
China	5	3	1	1	21	5	7
Japan	5	2	0	3	30	10	4
Mongolia	5	1	0	4	5	35	2
Macao	5	0	0	5	3	52	0

adidas® & WORLD SOCCER launch a new era for coaching and teaching football

FOR some years now it has been suggested that the game in the UK is on the decline. There may be many reasons for this, but adidas and *WORLD SOCCER* have got together to help launch the ASSOCIATION OF FOOTBALL COACHES AND TEACHERS to halt the slide.

The AFCT will allow coaches and teachers working at all levels of football to get together and participate with the best coaches in professional football, as well as some of the finest teachers of the game.

The aim is to open up access to the thoughts and practices of the best coaches and teachers so that their work can be viewed, adapted and used across the full spectrum of football — for the benefit of the game.

Regional and National sessions and seminars will be held on a regular basis with the membership of the Association playing a leading role in the content of the work covered.

To help launch the Association, adidas and *WORLD SOCCER* have devised a membership offer that is second to none — but it is a limited offer so hurry and return the membership form on the opposite page if you wish to join.

The AFCT is open to all people involved with the coaching and teaching of football — you do not need to be qualified, but you must be keen to learn and care for the game.

Gordon Strachan

STARS SUPPORT AFCT

MANY of the other footballing nations of the world have Associations for coaches and teachers, but the UK for some reason has never established such a valuable organisation.

Heading this innovation, with the task of establishing, launching and programming its early events, will be a panel of soccer people whose credentials are second to none.

From the world of professional football, BOB WILSON, GORDON STRACHAN and DON HOWE are well respected household names whilst JOHN MORTON, ROB LITTLEFORD and GRAHAM MORGAN have expertise at the grass-roots level of football that is equally impressive.

Bob Wilson is well-known as the Arsenal double-winning goalkeeper and now coach to David Seaman of Arsenal and England and a TV pundit.

Bob is also the very active Chairman of the London Football Coaches Association.

"Our great game of football can only benefit from this exciting new Association of Football Coaches and Teachers," says Bob.

"As a coach and qualified teacher, I realise just how important it is for teachers and coaches to see new material, compare their own work and learn from each other.

"The London Coaches Association has for many years put on practical sessions and talks by top names so that other football people can share their interests and broaden their knowledge.

Don Howe

Bob Wilson

"By forming a nation-wide Association, we can help more coaches and teachers to learn from different approaches and new practices.

"Without doubt the Association of Football Coaches and Teachers represent a big step forward for football in the UK and I would like to thank adidas and *WORLD SOCCER* for helping us to get started."

Another member of the Steering Committee is DON HOWE — one of the most respected figures in football coaching, not only in the UK, but around the world.

"When adidas and *WORLD SOCCER* support a football event you know it has credibility," says Don.

"I am going to lend my fullest support. Like many people fortunate enough to have earned a living out of the game, I am delighted to be able to put something back.

"I remember as a young player and then as a young coach the good fortune to come into contact with people like SIR WALTER WINTERBOTTOM, RON GREENWOOD and ALLEN WADE.

"These people inspired and encouraged me to get involved in coaching and if I can do the same to the next generation of coaches and teachers, I feel I will have achieved something valuable for football.

"I am really looking forward to playing a part in the success of the new Association."

GORDON STRACHAN, one of Scotland's all-time greats, is also involved in the new Association. The Football Writers' Footballer of the Year in 1990-91, he gained 50 caps and has enjoyed success with Aberdeen, Manchester United and Leeds United.

Now Gordon is at the stage of his career when coaching management opportunities have to be considered and prepared for.

"I have already taken my Scottish Coaching Badge and have helped with the development of the Coerver Coaching programme in the UK, so I am adding to the expertise I have gained from various managers that I have played for," says Gordon.

"However, as a father of two footballing sons, I am particularly keen on observing their progress and development through schools and youth football. I have some very strong comments about grass-roots football

at youth level and think the over pressuring of youngsters by their managers needs to be ousted out with youngsters being encouraged to play at the game rather than just competing for results.

"I believe the British strengths of competitive, character, determination, discipline, athleticism, etc must be used to full advantage — but by adding the polishing of our techniques and skills and not just the adaptation of direct play above all else, we can be amongst the best.

"Adidas and *WORLD SOCCER* are the right sort of people to support this new Association of Football Coaches and Teachers because they are top sports concerns with people who care about the good of the game. My thanks goes to them."

Backing up these personalities will be JOHN MORTON — a teacher from London, holder of the FA Full badge and Chairman of the ESFA Coaching and Selection Committee. John will represent the views of teachers on the Steering Committee.

Administration of the new Association will be the role of ROB LITTLEFORD, who is experienced in such matters through his role as Secretary of the Sheffield Coaches Association, one of the many such thriving Associations that could combine under the umbrella of the UK-wide Association supported by adidas and *WORLD SOCCER*.

The final member of the six man Steering Committee is GRAHAM MORGAN who will act as co-ordinator of the activities staged by the Association.

Graham is a former player and manager of the English Schools U-18 team, has staffed courses for the Football Association at home and abroad and was the first Football Development Officer in the UK when working in Bradford.

Peter Stewart, Managing Editor of *WORLD SOCCER*, says: "This magazine is delighted to be involved with adidas in support of the Association of Football Coaches and Teachers. Many of our readers will welcome such an Association so that they can get involved with the top names in soccer in a practical way.

"The Steering Committee are real football people who love the game as well as being experts in their own rights. This new development will ensure more coaches and teachers can share their interest and develop their expertise."

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE AFCT

SHORT TERM

1: To develop the membership of the Association and tailor events to suit specific requests of the members.
2: To focus on the development of skill and technique amongst young players.
3: To devise a programme of events that covers all aspects, topics and viewpoints of the coaching and teaching of football with no bias towards any specific direction or style of play.
4: To produce a coaching magazine for the membership that will act as a focal point for the Association and enable the "best practices" to be shared amongst its coach and teacher members

LONGER TERM

After an initial period of six months, with further membership being established, the Association will develop further aims and objectives and will draw upon the expertise of its members to look at the many issues in football coaching and teaching.

● For further information contact Graham Morgan on 061-419-2500.

adidas & WORLD SOCCER

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP OFFER

- 12 Months membership.
- 4 quarterly issues of the Association of Football Coaches and Teachers Coaching Magazine.
- An adidas drill tracksuit (with AFCT badge).
- Special offers, to AFCT members only, of adidas products at special prices (details in magazine).
- Discount on all AFCT sessions and seminars etc for AFCT members.
- Cost £35 (£5 discount if you are already a member of a local coaching Association i.e. Sheffield or London Football Coaches Association).

Please complete and return the form:

WORLD SOCCER

NAME.....

AGE.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

TEL NO.....

Chest Size.....Waist Size..... Shoe Size.....

CURRENT INVOLVEMENT IN FOOTBALL.....

Please return, with SAE, to: Mr Rob Littleford, Administrator, AFCT, Penmore House, Hasland Road, Hasland, Chesterfield, S41 OSJ.

adidas & WORLD SOCCER

COMPETITION SPECIAL

Your chance to learn from the masters

TO coincide with the launch of the Association of Football Coaches and Teachers, adidas and *WORLD SOCCER* have devised a unique competition for all coaches and teachers.

Here is your chance to visit top British clubs and see the work that goes on at their training ground with the first team squad. You can see the favourite practices of the top managers and coaches while picking up some ideas and advice for use with your own players.

1st Prize

A day at the training ground with the first team squad of Arsenal, Liverpool or Rangers.

Plus:

A full set of the training gear of that club.
An AFCT tracksuit.
A pair of adidas Copa Mundial boots — "the best training boot in the world".
A full set of Coerver Coaching videos.

5 Runner-up Prizes:

adidas tracksuits
A set of Coerver training videos.

The first correct entry that matches the decision of the panel will win the First Prize. The next five correct entries will be awarded the runners-up prizes.

How to enter this adidas and WORLD SOCCER competition

The Association of Football Coaches and Teachers are committed to focus on the development of skill and technique amongst young players.

Committee members of the AFCT, Don Howe, Gordon Strachan, Bob Wilson, John Morton and Graham Morgan have looked at some of the factors that affect this area and ranked them in importance.

All you have to do is consider the list of variables that affect young players' development in terms of skill and technical development and pick out the five you think are most important then complete and return the form below:

Please send your entries to:
Mr Rob Littleford, Administrator,
The Association of Football Coaches & Teachers,
Penmore House, Hasland Road,
Hasland, Chesterfield, S41 OSJ.

Select from

- Playing regularly for a school or youth team.
- Specialist fitness training.
- Having good role models to copy.
- Playing recreationally with friends.
- Winning medals and cups.
- Playing small sides games.
- Watching professional football.
- Working individually with a ball, *i.e. Coerver Method.*
- Attending a Centre of Excellence.
- Parental support and interest.

adidas & WORLD SOCCER

My first five points in order of importance are:

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

5.....

Name:.....

Tel No:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

Are you a teacher, a coach, or both? (please indicate).....

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World Cup USA1994 — Official Snack Food

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1994 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING GROUPS

EUROPE

38 entries (39 members, Liechtenstein withdrew)

● *Top two teams in each Group qualify for finals (Germany qualify as holders).*

GROUP 1

16.08.92	Estonia v Switzerland	0-6
09.09.92	Switzerland v Scotland	3-1
14.10.92	Italy v Switzerland	2-2
14.10.92	Scotland v Portugal	0-0
25.10.92	Malta v Estonia	0-0
18.11.92	Scotland v Italy	0-0
18.11.92	Switzerland v Malta	3-0
19.12.92	Malta v Italy	1-2
24.01.93	Malta v Portugal	0-1
17.02.93	Scotland v Malta	3-0
24.02.93	Portugal v Italy	1-3
24.03.93	Italy v Malta	6-1
31.03.93	Switzerland v Portugal	1-1
14.04.93	Italy v Estonia	2-0
17.04.93	Malta v Switzerland	0-2
28.04.93	Portugal v Scotland	5-0
01.05.93	Switzerland v Italy	1-0
12.05.93	Estonia v Malta	0-1
19.05.93	Estonia v Scotland	0-3
02.06.93	Scotland v Estonia	3-1
19.06.93	Portugal v Malta	4-0
05.09.93	Estonia v Portugal	
08.09.93	Scotland v Switzerland	
22.09.93	Estonia v Italy	
13.10.93	Portugal v Switzerland	
13.10.93	Italy v Scotland	
10.11.93	Portugal v Estonia	
17.11.93	Italy v Portugal	
17.11.93	Malta v Scotland	
17.11.93	Switzerland v Estonia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	7	5	2	0	18	4	12
Italy	7	4	2	1	15	6	10
Portugal	6	3	2	1	12	4	8
Scotland	7	3	2	2	10	9	8
Malta	9	1	1	7	3	21	3
Estonia	6	0	1	5	1	15	1

GROUP 2

09.09.92	Norway v San Marino	10-0
23.09.92	Norway v Holland	2-1
23.09.92	Poland v Turkey	1-0
07.10.92	San Marino v Norway	0-2
14.10.92	England v Norway	1-1
14.10.92	Holland v Poland	2-2
28.10.92	Turkey v San Marino	4-1
18.11.92	England v Turkey	4-0
16.12.92	Turkey v Holland	1-3
17.02.93	England v San Marino	6-0
24.02.93	Holland v Turkey	3-1
10.03.93	San Marino v Turkey	0-0
24.03.93	Holland v San Marino	6-0
31.03.93	Turkey v England	0-2
28.04.93	England v Holland	2-2
28.04.93	Norway v Turkey	3-1
28.04.93	Poland v San Marino	1-0
19.05.93	San Marino v Poland	0-3
29.05.93	Poland v England	1-1
02.06.93	Norway v England	2-0
09.06.93	Holland v Norway	0-0
08.09.93	England v Poland	
22.09.93	Norway v Poland	
22.09.93	San Marino v Holland	
13.10.93	Holland v England	
13.10.93	Poland v Norway	
27.10.93	Turkey v Poland	
10.11.93	Turkey v Norway	
16.11.93	San Marino v England	
17.11.93	Poland v Holland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	7	5	2	0	20	3	12
England	7	3	3	1	16	6	9
Holland	7	3	3	1	17	8	9
Poland	5	3	2	0	8	3	8
Turkey	8	1	1	6	7	17	3
San Marino	8	0	1	7	1	32	1

GROUP 3

22.04.92	Spain v Albania	3-0
28.04.92	Northern Ireland v Lithuania	2-2
26.05.92	Rep. of Ireland v Albania	2-0
03.06.92	Albania v Lithuania	1-0
12.08.92	Latvia v Lithuania	1-2
26.08.92	Latvia v Denmark	0-0
09.09.92	Rep. of Ireland v Latvia	4-0
09.09.92	Northern Ireland v Albania	3-0
23.09.92	Latvia v Spain	0-0
23.09.92	Lithuania v Denmark	0-0
14.10.92	Denmark v Rep. of Ireland	0-0
14.10.92	Northern Ireland v Spain	0-0
28.10.92	Lithuania v Latvia	1-1
11.11.92	Albania v Latvia	1-1
18.11.92	Northern Ireland v Denmark	0-1
18.11.92	Spain v Rep. of Ireland	0-0
16.12.92	Spain v Latvia	5-0
17.02.93	Albania v Northern Ireland	1-2
24.02.93	Spain v Lithuania	5-0
31.03.93	Denmark v Spain	1-0
31.03.93	Rep. of Ireland v N. Ireland	3-0
14.04.93	Denmark v Latvia	2-0
14.04.93	Lithuania v Albania	3-1
28.04.93	Rep. of Ireland v Denmark	1-1
28.04.93	Spain v Northern Ireland	3-1
15.05.93	Latvia v Albania	0-0
25.05.93	Lithuania v Northern Ireland	0-1
26.05.93	Albania v Rep. of Ireland	1-2
02.06.93	Denmark v Albania	4-0
02.06.93	Latvia v Northern Ireland	1-2
02.06.93	Lithuania v Spain	0-2
09.06.93	Latvia v Rep. of Ireland	0-2
16.06.93	Lithuania v Rep. of Ireland	0-1
25.08.93	Denmark v Lithuania	
08.09.93	Albania v Denmark	
08.09.93	Rep. of Ireland v Lithuania	
08.09.93	Northern Ireland v Latvia	
22.09.93	Albania v Spain	
13.10.93	Denmark v Northern Ireland	
13.10.93	Rep. of Ireland v Spain	
17.11.93	N. Ireland v Rep. of Ireland	
17.11.93	Spain v Denmark	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rep. of Ireland	9	6	3	0	14	2	15
Spain	9	5	3	1	18	2	13
Denmark	8	4	4	0	9	1	12
N. Ireland	9	4	2	3	11	10	10
Lithuania	10	2	3	5	8	15	7
Latvia	11	0	5	6	4	19	5
Albania	10	1	2	7	5	20	4

GROUP 4

22.04.92	Belgium v Cyprus	1-0
06.05.92	Romania v Faroe Islands	7-0
20.05.92	Romania v Wales	5-1
03.06.92	Faroe Islands v Belgium	0-3
18.06.92	Faroe Islands v Cyprus	0-2
02.09.92	Czechoslovakia v Belgium	1-2
09.09.92	Wales v Faroe Islands	6-0
23.09.92	Czechoslovakia v Faroe Islands	4-0
14.10.92	Belgium v Romania	1-0
14.10.92	Cyprus v Wales	0-1
14.11.92	Romania v Czechoslovakia	1-1
18.11.92	Belgium v Wales	2-0
29.11.92	Cyprus v Romania	1-4
13.02.93	Cyprus v Belgium	0-3
24.03.93	Cyprus v Czechoslovakia	1-1
31.03.93	Wales v Belgium	2-0
14.04.93	Romania v Cyprus	2-1
25.04.93	Cyprus v Faroe Islands	3-1
28.04.93	Czechoslovakia v Wales	1-1
22.05.93	Belgium v Faroe Islands	3-0
02.06.93	Czechoslovakia v Romania	5-2
06.06.93	Faroe Islands v Wales	0-3
16.06.93	Faroe Islands v Czechoslovakia	0-3
08.09.93	Wales v Czechoslovakia	
08.09.93	Faroe Islands v Romania	
13.10.93	Romania v Belgium	
13.10.93	Wales v Cyprus	
27.10.93	Czechoslovakia v Cyprus	
17.11.93	Wales v Romania	
17.11.93	Belgium v Czechoslovakia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	8	7	0	1	15	3	14
Romania	7	4	1	2	21	10	9
Czechoslovakia	7	3	3	1	16	7	9
Wales	7	4	1	2	14	8	9
Cyprus	8	2	1	5	8	13	5
Faroe Islands	9	0	0	9	1	34	0

GROUP 5

13.05.92	Greece v Iceland	1-0
03.06.92	Hungary v Iceland	1-2
09.09.92	Luxembourg v Hungary	0-3
07.10.92	Iceland v Greece	0-1
14.10.92	Russia v Iceland	1-0
28.10.92	Russia v Luxembourg	2-0
11.11.92	Greece v Hungary	0-0
17.02.93	Greece v Luxembourg	2-0
31.03.93	Hungary v Greece	0-1
14.04.93	Luxembourg v Russia	0-4
28.04.93	Russia v Hungary	3-0
20.05.93	Luxembourg v Iceland	1-1
23.05.93	Russia v Greece	1-1
02.06.93	Iceland v Russia	1-1
16.06.93	Iceland v Hungary	2-0
08.09.93	Hungary v Russia	
08.09.93	Iceland v Luxembourg	
12.10.93	Luxembourg v Greece	
27.10.93	Hungary v Luxembourg	
17.11.93	Greece v Russia	

★ *Yugoslavia excluded due to UN sanctions.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RUSSIA	6	4	2	0	12	2	10
GREECE	6	4	2	0	6	1	10
Iceland	7	2	2	3	6	6	6
Hungary	6	1	1	4	4	8	3
Luxembourg	5	0	1	4	1	12	1

GROUP 6

14.05.92	Finland v Bulgaria	0-3
09.09.92	Bulgaria v France	2-0
09.09.92	Finland v Sweden	0-1
07.10.92	Sweden v Bulgaria	2-0
14.10.92	France v Austria	2-0
28.10.92	Austria v Israel	5-2
11.11.92	Israel v Sweden	1-3
14.11.92	France v Finland	2-1
02.12.92	Israel v Bulgaria	0-2
17.02.93	Israel v France	0-4
27.03.93	Austria v France	0-1
14.04.93	Austria v Bulgaria	3-1
28.04.93	France v Sweden	2-1
28.04.93	Bulgaria v Finland	2-0
12.05.93	Bulgaria v Israel	2-2
13.05.93	Finland v Austria	3-1
19.05.93	Sweden v Austria	1-0
02.06.93	Sweden v Israel	5-0
16.06.93	Finland v Israel	0-0
22.08.93	Sweden v France	
25.08.93	Austria v Finland	
08.09.93	Finland v France	
08.09.93	Bulgaria v Sweden	
13.10.93	France v Israel	
13.10.93	Bulgaria v Austria	
13.10.93	Sweden v Finland	
27.20.93	Israel v Austria	
10.11.93	Austria v Sweden	
10.11.93	Israel v Finland	
17.11.93	France v Bulgaria	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	6	5	0	1	13	3	10
France	6	5	0	1	11	4	10
Bulgaria	7	4	1	2	12	7	9
Austria	6	2	0	4	9	10	4
Finland	6	1	1	4	4	9	3
Israel	7	0	2	5	5	21	2

AFRICA

37 entries (48 members)

Holland's Rijkaard beats Norway's Fjortoft in the air.

● *Group winners qualify for Second Round of 3 mini leagues of 3 teams each. Winners qualify for finals.*

First Round

GROUP A

09.10.92	Algeria v Burundi	3-1
25.10.92	Burundi v Ghana	1-0
20.12.92	Ghana v Algeria	2-0
17.01.93	Burundi v Algeria	0-0
31.01.93	Ghana v Burundi	1-0
26.02.93	Algeria v Ghana	2-1

★ *Uganda withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ALGERIA	4	2	1	1	5	4	5
Ghana	4	2	0	2	4	3	4
Burundi	4	1	1	2	2	4	3

GROUP B

18.10.92	Cameroon v Swaziland	5-0
25.10.92	Swaziland v Zaire	1-0
10.01.93	Zaire v Cameroon	1-2
17.01.93	Swaziland v Cameroon	0-0
29.02.93	Cameroon v Zaire	0-0

★ *Liberia withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CAMEROON	4	2	2	0	7	1	6
Swaziland	3	1	1	1	1	5	3
Zaire	3	0	1	2	1	3	1

Not played: *Zaire v Swaziland*

GROUP C

11.10.92	Egypt v Angola	1-0
11.10.92	Zimbabwe v Togo	1-0
25.10.92	Togo v Egypt	1-4
20.12.92	Zimbabwe v Egypt	2-1
10.01.93	Angola v Zimbabwe	1-1
17.01.93	Togo v Zimbabwe	1-2
18.01.93	Angola v Egypt	0-0
31.01.93	Egypt v Togo	3-0
31.01.93	Zimbabwe v Angola	2-1
28.02.93	Egypt v Zimbabwe	2-1
	Result declared void after protest	
28.02.93	Togo v Angola	0-1
	Replay *(in Lyons)*	
15.04.93	Egypt v Zimbabwe	0-0

★ *Sierra Leone withdrew, Togo replaced them.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ZIMBABWE	6	4	2	0	8	4	10
Egypt	6	3	2	1	9	3	8
Angola	5	1	2	2	3	4	4
Togo	5	0	0	5	2	11	0

Not played: *Angola v Togo*

GROUP D

10.10.92	Nigeria v South Africa	4-0
25.10.92	South Africa v Congo	1-0
20.12.92	Congo v Nigeria	0-1
17.01.93	South Africa v Nigeria	0-0
31.01.93	Congo v South Africa	0-1
27.02.93	Nigeria v Congo	2-0

★ *Sao Tome e Principe withdrew, Libya withdrew.*

Russia's Kiriakov takes a tumble as Greece's Kolitsidakis comes away with the ball.

10 cm

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NIGERIA	4	3	1	0	7	0	7
South Africa	4	2	1	1	2	4	5
Congo	4	0	0	4	0	5	0

GROUP E

10.10.92 Ivory Coast v Botswana 6-0
25.10.92 Niger v Ivory Coast 0-0
20.12.92 Botswana v Niger 0-1
17.01.93 Botswana v Ivory Coast 0-0
31.01.93 Ivory Coast v Niger 1-0
28.02.93 Niger v Botswana 2-1
★ *Sudan withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IVORY COAST	4	2	2	0	7	0	6
Niger	4	2	1	1	3	2	5
Botswana	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

GROUP F

11.10.92 Morocco v Ethiopia 1-0
11.10.92 Tunisia v Benin 2-1
25.10.92 Ethiopia v Tunisia 0-0
25.10.92 Benin v Morocco 0-1
01.11.92 Tunisia v Morocco 1-1
01.11.92 Ethiopia v Benin 3-1
17.01.93 Ethiopia v Morocco 0-1
17.01.93 Benin v Tunisia 0-5
31.01.93 Tunisia v Ethiopia 1-0
31.01.93 Morocco v Benin 3-0
28.02.93 Benin v Ethiopia 1-0
28.02.93 Morocco v Tunisia 0-0
★ *Malawi withdrew. Benin replaced them.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MOROCCO	6	4	3	0	10	1	10
Tunisia	6	2	3	0	4	2	9
Ethiopia	6	1	1	4	3	11	3
Benin	6	1	0	5	3	16	2

GROUP G

11.10.92 Gabon v Mozambique 3-1
25.10.92 Mozambique v Senegal 0-1
19.12.92 Gabon v Senegal 0-0
17.02.93 Mozambique v Gabon 1-1
30.01.93 Senegal v Mozambique 6-1
27.02.93 Senegal v Gabon 1-0
★ *Mauritania withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SENEGAL	4	3	0	1	10	4	9
Gabon	4	2	1	1	7	5	5
Mozambique	4	0	1	3	3	11	1

GROUP H

11.01.92 Madagascar v Namibia 3-0
25.10.92 Namibia v Zambia 0-4
20.12.92 Madagascar v Zambia 2-0
17.01.93 Namibia v Madagascar 0-1
30.01.93 Zambia v Namibia 4-0
27.02.93 Zambia v Madagascar 3-1
★ *Burkina Faso withdrew and were replaced by Namibia. Tanzania also withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ZAMBIA	4	3	0	1	11	3	9
Madagascar	4	3	0	1	7	3	9
Namibia	4	0	0	4	0	12	0

GROUP I

20.12.92 Guinea v Kenya 4-0
27.02.93 Kenya v Guinea 2-0
★ *Gambia & Mali withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GUINEA	2	1	0	1	4	2	2
Kenya	2	1	0	1	2	4	2

Second Round

GROUP A

16.04.93 Algeria v Ivory Coast 1-1
02.05.93 Ivory Coast v Nigeria 2-1
03.07.93 Nigeria v Algeria
18.07.93 Ivory Coast v Algeria
25.09.93 Nigeria v Ivory Coast
09.10.93 Algeria v Nigeria

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivory Coast	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Algeria	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Nigeria	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

GROUP B

18.04.93 Morocco v Senegal 1-0
04.07.93 Zambia v Morocco
17.07.93 Senegal v Morocco
08.08.93 Senegal v Zambia
26.09.93 Zambia v Senegal
10.10.93 Morocco v Zambia

GROUP C

18.04.93 Cameroon v Guinea 3-1
02.05.93 Guinea v Zimbabwe 3-0
04.07.93 Zimbabwe v Cameroon
18.07.93 Guinea v Cameroon
26.09.93 Zimbabwe v Guinea
10.10.93 Cameroon v Zimbabwe

CONCACAF

23 entries (27 members, Cuba withdrew)

● *Top two in Group A play (home & away) against top two in Group B. Winning nation qualifies for finals. Runners-up play Oceania winners for right to play South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals (United States qualify as hosts).*

Pre-preliminary Round

CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

21.03.92 Dominican Rep. v P. Rico 1-2
22.03.92 St Lucia v St Vincent 1-0
29.03.92 P. Rico v Dominican Rep. 1-1
29.03.92 St Vincent v St Lucia 3-1

Preliminary Round

CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

26.04.92 Bermuda v Haiti 1-0
26.05.92 Jamaica v Puerto Rico 2-1
26.05.92 Haiti v Bermuda 2-1
30.05.92 Puerto Rico v Jamaica 0-1
St Vincent v Cuba★
★ *Cuba withdrew.*
St Vincent, Bermuda & Jamaica qualify for 1st rnd

CARIBBEAN REGION — SOUTH

19.04.92 Dutch Antilles v Antigua 1-1
26.04.92 Antigua v Dutch Antilles 3-0
26.04.92 Guyana v Surinam 1-2
26.05.92 Barbados v Trin. & Tobago 1-2
26.05.92 Surinam v Guyana 1-1
31.05.92 Trin. & Tobago v Barbados 3-0
Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua and Surinam qualify for 1st rnd

First Round

CENTRAL REGION

19.07.92 Guatemala v Honduras 0-0
19.07.92 Nicaragua v El Salvador 0-5
26.07.92 El Salvador v Nicaragua 5-1
26.07.92 Honduras v Guatemala 2-0
16.08.92 Panama v Costa Rica 1-0
23.08.92 Costa Rica v Panama 5-1
El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica qualify for 2nd rnd

CARIBBEAN REGION

19.07.92 Antigua v Bermuda 0-3
26.07.92 Trinidad & Tobago v Jamaica 1-2
04.07.92 Bermuda v Antigua 2-1
02.08.92 Surinam v St Vincent 0-0
16.08.92 Jamaica v Trinidad & Tobago 1-1
30.08.92 St Vincent v Surinam 2-1
Bermuda, Jamaica and St Vincent qualify for 2nd rnd

Second Round

GROUP A

08.11.92 Costa Rica v Honduras 2-3
08.11.92 St Vincent v Mexico 0-4
15.11.92 Mexico v Honduras 2-0
15.11.92 St Vincent v Costa Rica 0-1
22.11.92 Mexico v Costa Rica 4-0
22.11.92 St Vincent v Honduras 0-4
29.11.92 Honduras v St Vincent 4-0
29.11.92 Costa Rica v Mexico 2-0
06.12.92 Honduras v Costa Rica 2-1
06.12.92 Mexico v St Vincent 11-0
13.12.92 Costa Rica v St Vincent 5-0
13.12.92 Honduras v Mexico 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MEXICO	6	4	1	1	22	3	9
HONDURAS	6	4	1	1	14	6	9
Costa Rica	6	3	0	3	11	9	6
St Vincent	6	0	0	6	0	29	0

Mexico & Honduras qualify for final rnd

GROUP B

18.10.92 Jamaica v Canada 1-1
18.10.92 Bermuda v El Salvador 1-0
25.10.92 El Salvador v Canada 1-1
25.10.92 Bermuda v Jamaica 1-1
01.11.92 Canada v Jamaica 1-0
01.11.92 El Salvador v Bermuda 4-1
08.11.92 Canada v El Salvador 2-3
08.11.92 Jamaica v Bermuda 3-2
15.11.92 Canada v Bermuda 4-2
22.11.92 Jamaica v El Salvador 0-2
06.12.92 Bermuda v Canada 0-0
06.12.92 El Salvador v Jamaica 2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EL SALVADOR	6	4	1	1	12	6	9
CANADA	6	2	3	1	9	7	7
Jamaica	6	1	2	3	6	9	4
Bermuda	6	1	2	3	7	12	4

El Salvador & Canada qualify for final rnd

Final Round

04.04.93 El Salvador v Mexico 2-1
04.04.93 Honduras v Canada 2-2
11.04.93 Mexico v Honduras 3-0
11.04.93 Canada v El Salvador 2-0
18.04.93 Canada v Honduras 3-1
18.04.93 Mexico v El Salvador 3-1
25.04.93 Mexico v Canada 4-0
25.04.93 Honduras v El Salvador 2-0
02.05.93 Honduras v Mexico 1-4
02.05.93 El Salvador v Canada 1-2
09.05.93 Canada v Mexico 1-2
09.05.93 El Salvador v Honduras 2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MEXICO	6	5	0	1	17	5	10
Canada	6	3	1	2	10	10	7
El Salvador	6	2	0	4	6	11	4
Honduras	6	1	1	4	7	13	3

SOUTH AMERICA

9 entries (10 members, Chile suspended)

● *Winners of Group A & winners & runners-up in Group B qualify for finals. Group A runners-up play winners of CONCACAF/ Oceania play-off for a place in the finals.*

GROUP A

Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru.

01.08.93 Colombia v Paraguay
01.08.93 Peru v Argentina
08.08.93 Paraguay v Argentina
08.08.93 Peru v Colombia
15.08.93 Colombia v Argentina
15.08.93 Paraguay v Peru
22.08.93 Argentina v Peru
22.08.93 Paraguay v Colombia
29.08.93 Argentina v Paraguay
29.08.93 Colombia v Peru
05.09.93 Argentina v Colombia
05.09.93 Peru v Paraguay

GROUP B

Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela.

08.07.93 Ecuador v Brazil
08.07.93 Venezuela v Bolivia
25.07.93 Bolivia v Brazil
25.07.93 Venezuela v Uruguay
01.08.93 Uruguay v Ecuador
01.08.93 Venezuela v Brazil
08.08.93 Bolivia v Uruguay
08.08.93 Ecuador v Venezuela
15.08.93 Bolivia v Ecuador
15.08.93 Uruguay v Brazil
22.08.93 Bolivia v Venezuela
22.08.93 Brazil v Ecuador
29.08.93 Brazil v Bolivia
29.08.93 Uruguay v Venezuela
05.09.93 Brazil v Venezuela
05.09.93 Uruguay v Ecuador
12.09.93 Uruguay v Bolivia
12.09.93 Venezuela v Ecuador
19.09.93 Brazil v Uruguay
19.09.93 Ecuador v Bolivia

OCEANIA

7 entries (8 members, Western Samoa withdrew)

● *The two Group winners play (home & away) with the winners qualifying to meet the CONCACAF runners-up. The winners of that match will meet the South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals.*

GROUP 1

11.07.92 Solomon Islands v Tahiti 1-1
04.09.92 Solomon Islands v Australia 1-2
11.09.92 Tahiti v Australia 0-3
20.09.92 Australia v Tahiti 2-0
25.09.92 Australia v Solomon Islands 6-1
09.10.92 Tahiti v Solomon Islands 4-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AUSTRALIA	4	4	0	0	13	2	8
Tahiti	4	1	1	2	5	8	3
Solomon Islands	4	0	1	3	5	13	1

Australia qualify for final play-off

GROUP 2

07.06.92 New Zealand v Fiji 3-0
27.06.92 Vanuatu v New Zealand 1-4
01.07.92 New Zealand v Vanuatu 8-0
12.09.92 Fiji v Vanuatu 3-0
19.09.92 Fiji v New Zealand 0-0
26.09.92 Vanuatu v Fiji 0-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NEW ZEALAND	4	3	1	0	15	1	7
Fiji	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
Vanuatu	4	0	0	4	1	18	0

New Zealand qualify for final play-off

PLAY-OFF

1st leg

30.05.93 New Zealand v Australia 0-1

2nd leg

06.06.93 Australia v New Zealand 3-0

Australia won 4-0 on agg and meet Canada in a two-legged play-off between August 1 and September 30.

ASIA

29 entries (36 members)

● *The six Group winners qualify for Second Round, to be played as (home & away) mini-league. Winners & runners-up qualify for finals.*

First Round

GROUP A

22.05.93 Jordan v Yemen ▲ 1-1
22.05.93 Pakistan v China ▲ 0-5
24.05.93 Jordan v Iraq ▲ 1-1
24.05.93 Yemen v Pakistan ▲ 5-1
26.05.93 Jordan v China ▲ 0-3
26.05.93 Yemen v Iraq ▲ 1-6
28.05.93 Pakistan v Iraq ▲ 0-8
28.05.93 Yemen v China ▲ 1-0
30.05.93 Jordan v Pakistan ▲ 3-1
30.05.93 Iraq v China ▲ 1-0
12.06.93 Yemen v Jordan ▼ 1-1
12.06.93 China v Pakistan ▼ 3-0
14.06.93 Iraq v Jordan ▼ 4-0
14.06.93 Pakistan v Yemen ▼ 0-3
16.06.93 China v Jordan ▼ 4-1
16.06.93 Iraq v Yemen ▼ 3-0
18.06.93 Iraq v Pakistan ▼ 4-0
18.06.93 China v Yemen ▼ 1-0
20.06.93 Pakistan v Jordan ▼ 0-5
20.06.93 China v Iraq ▼ 2-1
▲ in Amman, Jordan
▼ in Beijing, China

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IRAQ	8	6	1	1	28	4	13
China	8	6	0	2	18	4	12
Yemen	8	3	2	3	12	13	8
Jordan	8	2	3	3	12	15	7
Pakistan	8	0	0	8	2	36	0

GROUP B

23.06.93 Iran v Oman ▲ 0-0
23.06.93 Taiwan v Syria ▲ 0-2
25.06.93 Oman v Syria ▲ 0-0
25.06.93 Iran v Taiwan ▲ 6-0
27.06.93 Oman v Taiwan ▲ 2-1
27.06.93 Iran v Syria ▲ 1-1
02.07.93 Oman v Iran ▼
02.07.93 Syria v Taiwan ▼
04.07.93 Syria v Oman ▼
04.07.93 Taiwan v Iran ▼
06.07.93 Taiwan v Oman ▼
06.07.93 Syria v Iran ▼
▲ in Tehran, Iran
▼ in Damascus, Syria

★ *Myanmar (formerly Burma) withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	3	1	2	0	7	1	4
Syria	3	1	2	0	3	1	4
Oman	3	1	2	0	2	1	4
Taiwan	3	0	0	3	1	10	0

GROUP C

09.04.93 Qatar v Indonesia ▲ 3-1
09.04.93 North Korea v Vietnam ▲ 3-0
11.04.93 North Korea v Singapore ▲ 2-1
11.04.93 Qatar v Vietnam ▲ 4-0
13.04.93 North Korea v Indonesia ▲ 4-0
13.04.93 Vietnam v Singapore ▲ 2-3
16.04.93 Qatar v Singapore ▲ 4-1
16.04.93 Vietnam v Indonesia ▲ 1-0
18.04.93 Indonesia v Singapore ▲ 0-2
18.04.93 Qatar v North Korea ▲ 1-2
24.04.93 Indonesia v Qatar ▼ 1-4
24.04.93 Vietnam v North Korea ▼ 0-1
26.04.93 Singapore v North Korea ▼ 1-3
26.04.93 Vietnam v Qatar ▼ 0-4
28.04.93 Indonesia v North Korea ▼ 1-2
28.04.93 Singapore v Vietnam ▼ 1-0
30.04.93 Singapore v Qatar ▼ 1-0
30.04.93 Indonesia v Vietnam ▼ 2-1
02.05.93 Singapore v Indonesia ▼ 2-1
02.05.93 North Korea v Qatar ▼ 2-2
▲ in Doha, Qatar
▼ in Singapore

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORTH KOREA	8	7	1	0	19	6	15
Qatar	8	5	1	2	22	8	11
Singapore	8	5	0	3	12	12	10
Indonesia	8	1	0	7	6	19	2
Vietnam	8	1	0	7	4	18	2

GROUP D

07.05.93 Lebanon v India ▲ 2-2
07.05.93 Hong Kong v Bahrain ▲ 2-1
09.05.93 Bahrain v South Korea ▲ 0-0
09.05.93 Lebanon v Hong Kong ▲ 2-2
11.05.93 India v Hong Kong ▲ 1-2
11.05.93 Lebanon v South Korea ▲ 0-1
13.05.93 Lebanon v Bahrain ▲ 0-0
13.05.93 India v South Korea ▲ 0-3
15.05.93 Hong Kong v South Korea ▲ 0-3
15.05.93 Bahrain v India ▲ 2-1
05.06.93 South Korea v Hong Kong ▼ 3-0
05.06.93 Bahrain v Lebanon ▼ 0-0
07.06.93 India v Bahrain ▼ 3-0
07.06.93 South Korea v Lebanon ▼ 2-0
09.06.93 Hong Kong v Lebanon ▼ 1-2
09.06.93 South Korea v India ▼ 7-0
11.06.93 India v Lebanon ▼ 1-2
11.06.93 Bahrain v Hong Kong ▼ 3-0
13.06.93 South Korea v Bahrain ▼ 3-0
13.06.93 Hong Kong v India ▼ 1-3
▲ in Beirut, Lebanon
▼ in Seoul, South Korea

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SOUTH KOREA	8	7	1	0	22	0	15
Lebanon	8	2	4	2	8	9	8
Bahrain	8	2	3	3	6	9	7
India	8	2	1	5	11	19	5
Hong Kong	8	2	1	5	8	18	5

GROUP E

01.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Macao ▲ 6-0
01.05.93 Malaysia v Kuwait ▲ 1-1
03.05.93 Kuwait v Macao ▲ 10-1
03.05.93 Malaysia v Saudi Arabia ▲ 1-1
05.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Kuwait ▲ 0-0
05.05.93 Malaysia v Macao ▲ 9-0
14.05.93 Malaysia v Kuwait ▼ 0-2
14.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Macao ▼ 8-0
16.05.93 Macao v Kuwait ▼ 0-8
16.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Malaysia ▼ 3-0
18.05.93 Malaysia v Macao ▼ 5-0
18.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Kuwait ▼ 2-0
▲ in Kuala Lumpur
▼ in Riyadh

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SAUDI ARABIA	6	4	2	0	20	1	10
Kuwait	6	3	2	1	21	4	8
Malaysia	6	2	2	3	16	7	6
Macao	6	0	0	6	1	46	0

GROUP F

08.04.93 Japan v Thailand ▲ 1-0
08.04.93 Sri Lanka v UAE ▲ 0-4
11.04.93 Japan v Bangladesh ▲ 8-0
11.04.93 Thailand v Sri Lanka ▲ 1-0
13.04.93 Sri Lanka v Bangladesh ▲ 0-1
13.04.93 UAE v Thailand ▲ 1-0
15.04.93 Japan v Sri Lanka ▲ 5-0
15.04.93 UAE v Bangladesh ▲ 1-0
18.04.93 Japan v UAE ▲ 2-0
18.04.93 Thailand v Bangladesh ▲ 4-1
28.04.93 Thailand v Japan ▼ 0-1
28.04.93 UAE v Sri Lanka ▼ 3-0
30.04.93 Bangladesh v Japan ▼ 1-4
30.04.93 Thailand v UAE ▼ 1-2
03.05.93 Bangladesh v UAE ▼ 0-7
03.05.93 Sri Lanka v Thailand ▼ 0-3
05.05.93 Bangladesh v Thailand ▼ 1-4
05.05.93 Sri Lanka v Japan ▼ 0-6
07.05.93 Bangladesh v Sri Lanka ▼ 3-0
07.05.93 UAE v Japan ▼ 1-1
▲ in Tokyo, Japan
▼ in Dubai, UAE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
JAPAN	8	7	1	0	28	2	15
UAE	8	6	1	1	19	4	13
Thailand	8	4	0	4	13	7	8
Bangladesh	8	2	0	6	7	28	4
Sri Lanka	8	0	0	8	0	26	0

Iraq's Ahmed Dahham is tackled by a Jordanian defender during the 1-1 draw in World Cup Asian group A in Amman.

RESULTS *Standard win Belgian Cup . . . Lugano win Swiss Cup . . . Russia qualify for Wo*

AUSTRIA

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 30

WEEKEND

ST POLTEN 3
SPORTKLUB 3

ADMIRA WACKER 1
VORWARTS STEYR 1

WACKER 0
AUSTRIA WIEN 1

RAPID 1
SALZBURG 0

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 6

WEEKEND

AUSTRIA WIEN 7
ST POLTEN 1

SALZBURG 5
WACKER INNSBRUCK 0

SPORTCLUB 4
ADMIRA WACKER 1

VORWARTS STEYR 0
RAPID 1

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 13

MIDWEEK

RAPID 1
SPORTCLUB 1

ADMIRA WACKER 0
AUSTRIA WIEN 3

ST POLTEN 3
WACKER INNSBRUCK 3

VORWARTS STEYR 0
SALZBURG 2

WEEKEND

SALZBURG 1
ST POLTEN 0

WACKER INNSBRUCK 2
ADMIRA WACKER 4

AUSTRIA WIEN 4
RAPID 0

SPORTCLUB 1
VORWARTS STEYR 1

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 20

WEEKEND

CUP — FINAL

WACKER INNSBRUCK 3
RAPID WIEN 1

BELGIUM

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 30

WEEKEND

CUP — SEMI-FINALS

WAREGEM 1 (Treppers 7)
STANDARD 1 (Wilmots 47).

ANDERLECHT 1 (Versavel 80)
CHARLEROI 2 (Janevski 19 pen, Wuyts 38).

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 6

WEEKEND

CUP — FINAL

STANDARD 2 (Vos 46, Leonard 63)
CHARLEROI 0. **Att:** 24,892.

HOLLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 30

MIDWEEK

MVV 0
FEYENOORD 2 (Kiprich 45, Blinker 90). **Att:** 11,432.

AJAX 5 (Bergkamp 39, 64, R. De Boer 54, Petersen 61, Pettersson 89)
FORTUNA SITTARD 1 (Nysather 83). **Att:** 17,800.

GA EAGLES 2 (Rorjik 6, Boere 43)
RKC 5. **Att:** 5,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 6

WEEKEND

PSV 2 (Kulusha 86, Molenaar 88 o.g.)
VOLENDAM 2 (Bond 56, Berghuis 82). **Att:** 25,300.

SPARTA 2 (De Gekrouwe 4, Pronk 78)
RODA JC 4 (Janssen 19, Ter Avest 32, 34, 76). **Att:** 1,500.

GA EAGLES 2 (Rorije 6, Boere 83)
RKC 4 (Boogers 30, 46, 54, 79). **Att:** 5,000.

SVV DORDRECHT 4 (Simons 21, 62, Langerak 54, Langenhuijsen 80)
CAMBUUR 0. **Att:** 1,100.

UTRECHT 1 (De Kock 72)
AJAX 2 (Bergkamp 41, De Boer 84). **Att:** 12,500.

FORTUNA SITTARD 1 (Sneekes 24)
DEN BOSCH 1 (Keizer 67). **Att:** 2,500.

TWENTE 3 (Arts 8, Gaasbeck 52, 84)
MVV 0. **Att:** 7,460.

GRONINGEN 0
FEYENOORD 5 (Kiprich 10, Blinker 27, Scholten 73, Taument 78, 80). **Att:** 18,000.

WILLEM II 1 (Meijs 58)
VITESSE 2 (Laamers 42, Vermeulen 86). **Att:** 4,860.

PORTUGAL

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 30

WEEKEND

GUIMARAES 4 (Pedro 5, 12, N'Dinga 35, Ziao 40)
CHAVES 2 (Gigueira 65, Karoglan 78). **Att:** 12,000.

BEIRA-MAR 0
PORTO 1 (Timofte 49). **Att:** 20,000.

MARITIMO 3 (Edmilson 32, Heitor 86, Ademar 87)
BOAVISTA 2 (Owubokiri 35, 47). **Att:** 15,000.

ESTORIL 0
BENFICA 0. **Att:** 17,000.

BELENENSES 2 (Curcik 19, 45)
SPORTING 2 (Capucho 20, Paulo Torres 89). **Att:** 18,000.

PACOS FERREIRA 4 (Tulipa 21, Toro Batista 39, Miranda 60, Jussif 69 o.g.)
FARENSE 1 (Hugo 51). **Att:** 8,000.

TIRSENSE 2 (Vinicius 3, 13)
ESPINHO 0. **Att:** 10,000.

SALGUEIROS 2 (Vinha 37, Milovac 71)
BRAGA 0. **Att:** 9,800.

FAMALICAO 0
GIL VICENTE 0. **Att:** 11,400.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 6

WEEKEND

CHAVES 0
BEIRA-MAR 0. **Att:** 5,000.

PORTO 2 (F. Couto 30, Kostadinov 75)
MARITIMO 0. **Att:** 80,000.

BOAVISTA 1 (Artur 85)
ESTORIL 0. **Att:** 20,000.

BENFICA 5 (Abel 5, Rui Aguas 9, 50, C. Brito 75, Paneira 80)
BELENENSES 1 (Emerson 85). **Att:** 25,000.

SPORTING 3 (Yordanov 66, Capucho 83, Cadete 90)
PACOS FERREIRA 1 (M. Bruno 38). **Att:** 20,000.

FARENSE 1 (Hugo 89)
TIRSENSE 0. **Att:** 15,000.

ESPINHO 1 (Chico Faria 65)
SALGUEIROS 1 (Vinha 89). **Att:** 17,000.

GIL VICENTE 2 (Druiovic 50, 67)
GUIMARAES 0. **Att:** 12,500.

BRAGA 4 (F. Pires 1, 5, Forbes 15, 36)
FAMALICAO 1 (Jorginho 27). **Att:** 25,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **Cadete** (Sporting) 18
2 ..... **Artur** (Boavista) 13
Owubokiri (Boavista) 13
4 ..... **Andrade** (Maritimo) 12

SWITZERLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 30

WEEKEND

LUGANO 1 (Zuffi 64)
NEUCHATEL 4 (Sutter 35, Wittz 44, Adriano 78, 79). **Att:** 4,500.

SERVETTE 2 (Renato 34, Ohrel 74)
LAUSANNE 1 (Poulard 85). **Att:** 6,100.

SION 1 (Assis 49)
ZURICH 4 (Skoro 6, Grassi 18, 87, Waas 42). **Att:** 4,000.

YOUNG BOYS 1 (Agostinho 45)
AARAU 4 (Aleksandrov 21, 66, 70, 85). **Att:** 13,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 6

MIDWEEK

CUP — FINAL

LUGANO 4 (Andrioli 14, Subiat 44, 71, Fomeral 89)
GRASSHOPPER 1 (Elber 61). **Att:** 21,000.

WEEKEND

AARAU 2 (Sutter 23, Paulicevic 46)
SION 1 (Hottiger 63). **Att:** 3,500.

ZURICH 3 (Grassi 44, 74 pen, Waas 50)
SERVETTE 2 (Renato 15, Gertschev 79). **Att:** 4,000.

LAUSANNE 0
LUGANO 3 (Pelosi 10, Tami 58, Zuffi 87). **Att:** 54,000.

XAMAX 0
YOUNG BOYS 1 (Gerber 85). **Att:** 17,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JUNE 13

MIDWEEK

LUGANO 1 (Tenzavulli 52)
AARAU 2 (Heldmaw 31, Cornornicki 61). **Att:** 3,800.

SERVETTE 0
NEUCHATEL XAMAX 1 (Adriano 4). **Att:** 4,800.

SION 4 (Luis Carlos 14, Hottiger 41, Marcio 48, 73)
LAUSANNE 0. **Att:** 6,500.

YOUNG BOYS 0
ZURICH 0. **Att:** 6,500.

WEEKEND

ZURICH 0
LUGANO 2 (Pelosi 16, Colombo 65). **Att:** 2,500.

AARAU 1 (Cornornicki 20)
SERVETTE 1 (Renato 3). **Att:** 10,200.

NEUCHATEL XAMAX 1 (Adriano 81)
SION 1 (Luis Carlos 17). **Att:** 3,800.

LAUSANNE 0
YOUNG BOYS 0. **Att:** 2,150.

INTERNATIONAL

TUESDAY, MAY 18

May 18 = Vilnius — friendly
LITHUANIA 1 (Zdancius 4)
UKRAINE 2 (Leonenko 18, Mikhailichenko 22)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Dubinskas (Lit)
Lithuania: Martinkenas — Ziukas, Baltusnikas, Tereskinas (Sakalas 70), Kalvaitis (Urbonas 74) — Oltchanskis, Skarbalus, Siekis, Poderis (Bitchkas 46) — Kirilovas, Zdancius.
Ukraine: Pomazun — Popov, Bejenar, Yakovenko, Mikhailenko — Polunin, Pokhlebayev, Shkapenko (Kovalets 72), Gritsina (Gaydach 64) — Leonenko (Gussev 86), Konovalov.

FRIDAY, MAY 21

May 21 = Bogota — intl friendly
COLOMBIA 1 (Garcia 9)
VENEZUELA 1 (Rivas 43)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Perez (Col)

SATURDAY, MAY 22

May 22 = Napier — intl friendly
NEW ZEALAND 2 (Halligan 29, Nawalu og 77)
FIJI 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,000.

TUESDAY, MAY 25

May 25 = Vilnius — WC Euro gp 3
LITHUANIA 0
N IRELAND 1 (Dowie 8)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Palsi (Fin)
Lithuania: Martinkenas — Baltushnikas, Buzhmakovas (Vichka 68), Mazheilies, Zhnukas, Lushanskis (Shlenskis 46), Baranauskas, Sukristovas, Kirilovas, Fridrikas, Zdancius.
N Ireland: Wright — Fleming, Taggart, McDonald, Worthington, Donaghy, Magilton, O'Neill, Wilson, Hughes, Dowie.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

May 26 = Ibid — WC Asian gp A
IRAQ 6 (Qaiss 1, 72, A Kassem 21, 76, M Kassem 34, Ahmed Radi 56)
YEMEN 1 (Dreibane 16)
HT: 3-1.

May 26 = Ibid — WC Asian gp A
JORDAN 0
CHINA 3 (Gao Hongbo 61, Woo Kun-lee 66, Kai-chang 89)
HT: 0-0.

May 26 = Tirana — WC Euro gp 3
ALBANIA 1 (Kushta 7)
REP IRELAND 2 (Staunton 13, Cascarino 77)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Cinciripini (Ita)
Albania: Musta — Zmijani (Fortuzi 58), Shulku, Shala, Vata, Lekbello, Kushta, Peqini, Rraklli (Bozgo 76), Milori, Demollari.
Rep Ireland: Bonner — Irwin, Phelan, Kernaghan, Moran, Keane, Townsend, Houghton, Quinn, Aldridge (Cascarino 76), Staunton.

May 26 = Mission Viejo — friendly intl
UNITED STATES 0
PERU 0
Att: 5,500. **Ref:** Angeles (US)
US: Meola — Armstrong, Kooiman, Clavijo, Caligiuri (Agoos 46), Quinn (Lalas 64), Henderson, Murray (Jones 46), Moore (Chung 84), Kinnear, Wegerle.
Peru: Miranda — Jorge Soto, Reynoso, Olivares, Jose Soto, Carranza, Bazalar, Zegarra, Balco (Rodriguez 69), Maestri (Andres Gonzalez 74), Rivera.

FRIDAY, MAY 28

May 28 = Ibid — WC Asian gp A
IRAQ 8 (Laith Hussain 13, Saed Khais 20, 69, Alaa Kassem 29, 74, Ahmed Radi 44, Monder Khalaf 78, Naeim Saddam 88)
PAKISTAN 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 800. **Ref:** Abdul Aziz Al-Mullah (UAE)

May 28 = Ibid — WC Asian gp A
YEMEN 1 (Saleh Ben Radiaa 62)
CHINA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 800.

SATURDAY, MAY 29

May 29 = Chorzow — WC Euro gp 2
POLAND 1 (Adamczuk 34)
ENGLAND 1 (Wright 84)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Muhrmenthaler (Swi)
Poland: Bako — Czachowski, Szewczyk, Kosminski, Lesiak, Brzeczek (Jalocha 84), Swierczewski, Adamczuk, Furtok, Kosecki, Lesniak (Wegrzyn 75).
England: Woods — Bardsley, Dorigo, Palmer (Wright 72), Walker, Adams, Platt, Gascoigne (Clough 79), Sheringham, Barnes, Ince.

May 29 = Auckland — WC Oceania play-off, 1st leg
NEW ZEALAND 0
AUSTRALIA 1 (Arnold 59)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Karlsson (Swe)
New Zealand: Gosling — C Evans, Gray, Dunford (A Evans70), Ridenton — Halligan, Ironside, Riley, McGarry — De Jong, Wright.
Australia: Bosnich — Longo, Zelic, Tobin, Milosevic (Polak 70) — Wade, Van Bledrk, Durakovic, Slater — Farina (Veart 27), Arnold.

SUNDAY, MAY 30

May 30 = Ibid — WC Asian gp A
IRAQ 1 (Ahmed Radi 46)
CHINA 0
HT: 0-0.

May 30 = Ibid — WC Asian gp A
JORDAN 3 (M Achab 8, 89, Aref 90)
PAKISTAN 1 (Zaher 80)
HT: 1-0.

May 30 = Santiago — intl friendly
CHILE 1 (Guevara 48)
COLOMBIA 1 (Aristizabal 71)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Imperatore (Chi)
Chile: Toledo — Mendoza, Ramirez, Vilches, Margas — Estay, Musrri, Guevara, Sierra (Gonzalez) — Zambrano (Figueroa), Vega.
Colombia: Mondragon — Herrera, Perea, Mendoza, Osorio — Rincon, Alvarez, Lozano, Escobar — Cruz (Trellez), Valencia (Aristizabal).

May 30 = Quito — intl friendly
ECUADOR 1 (Fernandez 24)
PERU 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 24,000. **Ref:** Aguas (Ecu)
Ecuador: Espinoza — Munoz, Noriega, Capurro, Montanero (Quinonez 46) — Fernandez (Garay 54), Carabali, Carcelen, Gavica — Cherrez (Aguinaga 46), Chala (Hurtado 46).
Peru: Miranda — Jorge Soto, Jose Soto, Reynoso, Olivares — Bazalar, Carranza (Rodriguez 46), Martinez (Saenz 66), Zegarra — Gonzalez, Rivera.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2

Jun 2 = Aberdeen — WC Euro gp 1
SCOTLAND 3 (McClair 18, Nevin 27, 72pen)
ESTONIA 1 (Bragin 57)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 14,309. **Ref:** Uzunov (Bul)
Scotland: Gunn — McLaren (McKimmie 72), Boyd, McStay, Hendry, Irvine, Gallacher, Ferguson (Booth 56), McClair, Collins, Nevin.
Estonia: Poom — R Kallaste, Lemsalu (Bragin 46), Prins, Kaljend, T Kallaste, Borisov, Kristal, Reim, Olumets (Veensalu 73), Rajala.

Jun 2 = Oslo — WC Euro gp 2
NORWAY 2 (Leonhardsen 42, Bohinen 48)
ENGLAND 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,250. **Ref:** Puhl (Hun)
Norway: Thorstvedt — Halle, T Pedersen, Bratseth (Nilsen 82), Bjornebye, Flo, Mykland, Leonhardsen, Fjortoft (Sorloth 57), Rekdal, Bohinen.
England: Woods — Dixon, Pallister, Palmer, Walker (Clough 63), Adams, Platt, Gascoigne, Ferdinand, Sheringham (Wright 46), Sharpe.

Jun 2 = Vilnius — WC Euro gp 3
LITHUANIA 0
SPAIN 2 (Guerreiro 73, 77)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Ionescu (Rom)
Lithuania: Martinkenas — Zutkas, Baitusnikas, Mazeikis, Buzmankovas, Olsanskis, Baranauskas, Sukristovas, Kirilovas, Fridrikas (Zdancius 54), Skarbalius.
Spain: Zubizarreta — Ferrer, Lasa (Beguiristain 62), Alkorta, Fernando, Hierro, Salinas (Quique Estebaranz 54), Nadal, Claudio, Guerreiro, Amor.

Jun 2 = Copenhagen — WC Euro gp 3
DENMARK 4 (Jensen 11, Pingel 20, 40, Moller 28)
ALBANIA 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 39,503. **Ref:** Grabher (Aus)
Denmark: Schmeichel — Steen Nielsen, Rieper, L Olsen, Kjelbjerg, M Larsen, Jensen (Goldbaek 83), Vilfort, Pingel, Moller (Johansen 64), B Laudrup.
Albania: Musta — Fortuzi (Zala 83), Zmijani, Shulku, Onelli, Peqini, Bano, Demollari (Bogzo 17), Kushta, Vata, Rraklli.

Jun 2 = Riga — WC Euro gp 3
LATVIA 1 (Linards 55)
N IRELAND 2 (Magilton 4, Taggart 15)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Werner (Pol)
Latvia: Karaveyevs — Erglis, Sevlakovs, Ivanovs, Gnedojs, Popkovs, Sarando (Yeliseyevs 46), Astafievs, Zeiberlins (Babicevs 63), Linards, Goryacilos.
N Ireland: Wright — Fleming, McDonald, Taggart, Worthington, O'Neill (Quinn 85), Magilton, Donaghy, Wilson, Hughes, Dowie.

Jun 2 = Kosice — WC Euro gp 4
CZECHOSLOVAKIA 5 (Vrabec 13, Latal 37, Dubovsky 58, 83, 89)
ROMANIA 2 (Raducioiu 26, 55)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Nielsen (Den)
Czechoslovakia: Kouba — Suchoparek, Novotny, Vrabec, Latal, Moravcik, Nemecek, Kubik (Nemec 46), Dubovsky, P Kuka (Glonek 81), Skuhravy.
Romania: Lung — Belodedici, Prodan (Hanganu 77), G Popescu, Munteanu, Sabau, Hagi, Lupescu, Dumitrescu, Lacatus (Pandaru 65), Raducioiu.

Jun 2 = Reykjavik — WC Euro gp 5
ICELAND 1 (Sverrisson 26)
RUSSIA 1 (Kiriakov 38)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 3,096. **Ref:** Mottram (Sco)
Iceland: B Kristinsson — Bergsson, Birgisson, K Jonsson, Dervic, Stefansson, O Thordarsson, R Kristinsson (A Gretarsson 78), Gudjohnsen, Sverrisson (Ingolfsson 83), Gunnlaugsson.
Russia: Kharin — Gorluvokich, Onopko, Kulkov, Ivanov, Kanchelskis, Dobrovolski, Tatarchuk (Korneyev 63), Kolivanov, Yuran (Ledlakov 75), Kiriakov.

Jun 2 = Stockholm — WC Euro gp 6
SWEDEN 5 (Brolin 17, 41, 65, Zetterberg 55, Landberg 89)
ISRAEL 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Khusainov (Rus)
Sweden: Ravelli — Nilsson, Eriksson, Bjorklund, Ljung — Rehn (Landberg 74), P Andersson, Zetterberg, Ingesson — Brolin, Dahlin.
Israel: Ginzburg — Halfon, Hilel, Klinger, Shelach — Bruomer, Ohana (Ravivo 65), Hazan, Schwartz — R Harazi, Rosenthal (A Harazi 46).

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

Jun 5 = Seoul — WC Asian gp D
SOUTH KOREA 4 (Choi Mun-shik 12, Chung Jae-kwon 76, Ha Suk-ju 81, Noh Jung-yun 85)
HONG KONG 1 (Ai Wai Lun 21)
HT: 1-1. At: 17,430.

Jun 5 = Seoul — WC Asian gp D
BAHRAIN 0
LEBANON 0
Att: 17,430.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

Jun 6 = Toftir — WC Euro gp 4
FAROE ISLANDS 0
WALES 3 (Saunders 22, Young 31, Rush 69)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 4,209. **Ref:** Zhuk (Bye)
Faroes: Knudsen — J Jakobsen, T E Hansen, Johannesen, Justinussen,

Reynatugvu (Ramussen 49), T Nielsen, Dam, A Hansen, Reynheim (Mohr 59), Arge.
Wales: Southall — Phillips, Bodin, Aizlewood, Young (Melville 49), Symons, Horne, Saunders, Rush, Hughes (Speed 75), Giggs.

Jun 6 = Melbourne — WC Oceania play-off, 2nd leg
AUSTRALIA 3 (Veart 1, A Vidmar 3, Zelic 49)
NEW ZEALAND 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 9,445. **Ref:** Ullenberg (Hol)
Australia 4-0 on agg, now play Canada
Australia: Bosnich — Longo, Zelic, Tobin, Durakovic — A Vidmar, Van Blerk, Polak — Veart (Trimboli 64), Arnold, Slater.
New Zealand: Gosling — Ridenton, Gray, Evans, Dunford — Ironside (Coveny 61), McGarry, Riley, McClennan — Halligan, Nigata.

Jun 6 = New Haven — US Cup '93
UNITED STATES 0
BRAZIL 2 (Careca 5, Winck 87)
HT: 0-1. Att: 44,575. Ref: Ceccarini (Ita)
US: Meola — Armstrong, Doyle, Lapper, Clavijo, Agoos, Harkes, Henderson (Wondolowski 39), Murray (Jones 57), Wegerle, Harkes (Stewart 46).
Brazil: Taffarel — Winck, Julio Cesar, Marcio Santos, Branco (Nonato 46), Luisinho (Palinha 68), Dunga, Boaderio, Valdeir, Careca, Elivelton (Cafu 79).

Jun 6 = Bogota — intl friendly
COLOMBIA 1 (Asprilla 59)
CHILE 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 55,000.

MONDAY, JUNE 7

Jun 7 = Seoul — WC Asian gp D
BAHRAIN 3 (Mubarak Khamis Mubarak 20, 50, Khamis Eid Thani 54)
INDIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000.

Jun 7 = Seoul — WC Asian gp D
SOUTH KOREA 2 (Ha Seok-ju 31, Hwang Bo-kwan 56)
LEBANON 0
HT: 1-0.**Att:** 20,000.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

Jun 9 = Rotterdam — WC Euro gp 2
HOLLAND 0
NORWAY 0
Att: 40,000. **Ref:** Nikakis (Gre)
Holland: De Goey — Van Gobbel (Winter 81), Rijkaard, R Koeman, F De Boer, Wouters, Overmars, Jonk, Bosman (Van Vossen 46), Bergkamp, Blinker.
Norway: Thorstvedt — R Johnsen (Brendesaether 85), T Pedersen, Bratseth, Bjornebye (R Nilsen 46), Flo, Mykland, Leonhardsen, Fjortoft, Rekdal, Bohinen.

Jun 9 = Riga — WC Euro gp 3
LATVIA 0
REP IRELAND 2 (Aldridge 14, McGrath 42)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Jol (Hol)
Latvia: Karavayev — Ergis, Shevelkov, Astafiev, V Ivanov, Gnedo, Popkov, Bolders, Babichev (Yeliseyev 46), Sharando (Goryachilov 54), Linards.
Rep Ireland: Bonner — Irwin, Kernaghan, McGrath, Phelan, Houghton, Townsend, Keane, Staunton, Aldridge (Sheridan 80), Quinn (Cascarino 74).

Jun 9 = Seoul — WC Asian gp D
SOUTH KOREA 7
INDIA 0
HT: 3-0.

Jun 9 = Seoul — WC Asian gp D
LEBANON 2 (Youssef Fahmi 38, Wael Nasrine 75)
HONG KONG 1 (Lee Wai Man 15)
HT: 1-1.

Jun 9 = Singapore — South east Asian Games
SINGAPORE 7
PHILIPPINES 0
HT: 3-0.

Jun 9 = Singapore — South east Asian Games
MALAYSIA 3
BRUNEI 1

Jun 9 = Singapore — South east Asian Games
INDONESIA 1 (Taufiq Yunus 51)
VIETNAM 0

Jun 9 = Singapore — South east Asian Games
BURMA 7
LAOS 1
HT: 2-0.

Jun 9 = Foxboro — US Cup '93
UNITED STATES 2 (Dooley 42, Lalas 72)
ENGLAND 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 37,652. **Ref:** Weiser (Aut)
US: Meola — Armstrong, Lapper, Doyle, Agoos, Clavijo, Dooley (Lalas 69), Harkes, Ramos (Jones 62), Wegerle, Wynalda (Stewart 61).
England: Woods — Dixon, Pallister, Palmer (Walker 61), Dorigo — Batty, Ince, Clough, Sharpe — Ferdinand (Wright 35), Barnes.

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

Jun 10 = Washington/RFK — US Cup '93
BRAZIL 3 (Helmer og 13, Careca 32pen, Luisinho 39)
GERMANY 3 (Klinsmann 66, 89, Moller 80)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 34,737. **Ref:** Tambarino (US)
Brazil: Taffarel — Jorginho, Julio Cesar, Marcio Santos, Branco (Nonato 82) — Dunga, Valdeir (Almir 64), Rai, Luisinho — Careca, Elivelton (Cafu 70).
Germany: Kopke — Effenberg, Helmer, Kohler, Buchwald, Moller, Zorc (Strunz 58), Matthaus, Sammer (Riedle 46), Ziege (Schulz 74), Klinsmann.

Jun 10 = Mexico City — intl friendly
MEXICO 3 (Flores, Garcia Aspe, Zague)
PARAGUAY 1 (Struway)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

Jun 11 = Seoul — WC Asian gp C
LEBANON 2 (Hassan Ayoub 41, Rafi Joulfagi 79)
INDIA 1 (Thakur 34)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 1,000.

Jun 11 = Seoul — WC Asian gp C
BAHRAIN 3 (Marzooq 1, Samir Mohammad Mubarak 46, Khamis Eid Thani 49)
HONG KONG 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,000.

Jun 11 = Singapore — S E Asian Games qual
INDONESIA 1 (Herrie Setyawan 1)
SINGAPORE 1 (Sundarmoorty 27)
HT: 1-1.

Jun 11 = Singapore — S E Asian Games qual
MALAYSIA 9
LAOS 0
HT: 4-0.

Jun 11 = Singapore — S E Asian Games qual
VIETNAM 1
PHILIPPINES 0
HT: 0-0.

Jun 11 = Singapore — S E Asian Games qual
THAILAND 5
BRUNEI 2
HT: 2-2.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

Jun 12 = Chengdu — WC Asian gp A
CHINA 3 (Gao Hongbo 62, 89, Hao Haidong 64)
PAKISTAN 0
HT: 0-0.

Jun 12 = Chengu — WC Asian gp A
YEMEN 1 (Sharaf Abdo 52)
JORDAN 1 (Al-Shewaeir 73)
HT: 0-0.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

Jun 13 = Seoul — WC Asian gp D
SOUTH KOREA 3 (Kang Chul 55, Park Nam-yeol 70, Gu Sang-bum 85)
BAHRAIN 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000.

Jun 13 = Seoul — WC Asian gp D
INDIA 3 (V I Mani 6, 77, B Thakur 55)
HONG KONG 1 (Wong Chi Keung 67)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000.

Jun 13 = Washington/RFK — US Cup '93
BRAZIL 1 (Marcio Santos 76)
ENGLAND 1 (Platt 47)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 54,118. **Ref:** Dias (US)
Brazil: Taffarel — Jorginho, Valber, Marcio Santos, Nonato (Cafu 5), Luisinho (Palinha 57), Careca, Elivelton, Dunga, Valdeir (Almir 87), Rai.
England: Flowers — Barrett, Walker, Pallister, Dorigo — Sinton, Batty (Platt 46), Clough (Merson 82), Ince (Palmer 67), Sharpe — Wright.

un 13 = Chicago/Soldier Field — US Cup '93
UNITED STATES 3 (Dooley 25, 79, Stewart 72)
GERMANY 4 (Klinsmann 14, Riedle 34, 39, 59)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 53,549. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)
US: Meola — Armstrong, Doyle, Lapper, Clavijo, Agoos (Lalas 67), Dooley, Harkes, Ramos (Jones 78), Wegerle, Wynalda (Stewart 60).
Germany: Kopke — Kohler (Helmer 74), Buchwald, Schulz, Effenberg (Moller 60), Matthaus, Bein, Ziege, Strunz, Riedle, Klinsmann (Pflipsen 70).

Brazil's Marcio Santos in action against Germany at the US Cup.

Jun 13 = Mexico City — friendly
MEXICO 3
PARAGUAY 1

MONDAY, JUNE 14

Jun 14 = Chengdu — WC Asian gp A
IRAQ 4
JORDAN 0
HT: 3-0.

Jun 14 = Chengdu — WC Asian gp A
YEMEN 3
PAKISTAN 0
HT: 1-0.

TUESDAY, JUNE 15

Jun 15 = Quito — Copa America Gp A
ECUADOR 6
VENEZUELA 1
● *See separate feature*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

Jun 16 = Ambato — Copa America gp A
URUGUAY 1
UNITED STATES 0
● *See separate feature*

Jun 16 = Machala — Copa America gp C
COLOMBIA 2
MEXICO 1
● *See separate feature*

Jun 16 = Vilnius — WC Euro gp 3
LITHUANIA 0
REP IRELAND 1 (Staunton 38)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Philippi (Lux)
Lithuania: Martinkenas — Ziukas, Baltusnikas, Mazeikis, Buzmakovas, Skarbalius (Zcancius 46), Baranauskas, Urbonas (Ramelis 67), Stumprys, Kirilovas, Slekys.
Rep Ireland: Bonner — Irwin, Phelan, McGrath, Kernaghan, Keane, Townsend, Houghton, Quinn, Aldridge (Whelan 76), Staunton.

Jun 16 = Toftir — WC Euro gp 4
FAROE ISLANDS 0
CZECHOSLOVAKIA 3 (Hasek 3, Postulka 38, 44)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Lodge (Eng)
Faroes: Knudsen — R Justinussen (Rasmussen 68), Johannesen, J Jakobsen (T E Hansen 70), K Morkore, A Justinussen — A Morkore, Reynatugvu, A Hansen, Dam — Nielsen.
Czechoslovakia: Kouba — Suchoparek, Hasek, Repka — Latal, Nemecek, Dubovsky, Postulka, Berger — P Kuka (Kinder 54), Moravcik (Kubik 81).

Jun 16 = Lahti — WC Euro gp 6
FINLAND 0
ISRAEL 0
Att: 4,620. **Ref:** Pyanik (Ukr)
Finland: Jakonen — Kinnunen (Lindberg 84), Holmgren, Kanerva, Heikkinen, Petaja — Suominen, Litmanen, Rajamaki — Patelainen, Gronholm (Ruhanen 75).
Israel: Ginzburg — Klinger — Halfon, Bruomer, Shelah, Asalem — Hazan, Schwartz, Banin — R Harazi (Atar 89), Ohana.

Jun 16 = Reykjavik — WC Euro gp 5
ICELAND 2 (Sverrisson 13, Gudjohnsen 77)
HUNGARY 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Harrel (Fra)
Iceland: B Kristinsson — Bjarnsson, Bergsson, K Jonsson, Dervic — Thordarsson, R Kristinsson, Stefansson (Gretarsson 64) — Gudlaugsson, Gudjohnsen, Sverrisson.
Hungary: Petry — Simon, Telek, Lorincz, F Urban — Pisont, Marton, T Balog, Kerezturi — Oroz (Hamori 64), Mamar (Salloi 80).

Jun 16 = Chengdu — WC Asian gp A
CHINA 4 (Li Bin two, Gao Hongbo two)
JORDAN 1 (Jamal Abu-abed)
HT: 1-0.

Jun 16 = Chengdu — WC Asian gp A
IRAQ 3 (Amish Ahmed 46, Numan Saad 65, Laith 81)
YEMEN 0
HT: 1-0.

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

Jun 17 = Guayaquil — Copa America gp C
ARGENTINA 1
BOLIVIA 0
● *See separate feature*

FRIDAY, JUNE 18

Jun 18 = Chengdu — WC Asian gp A
IRAQ 4
PAKISTAN 0

Jun 18 = Chengdu — WC Asian gp A
CHINA 1
YEMEN 0

Jun 18 = Cuenca — Copa America gp B
PARAGUAY 1
CHILE 0
● *See separate feature*

Jun 18 = Cuenca — Copa America gp B
BRAZIL 0
PERU 0
● *See separate feature*

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

Jun 19 = Oporto — WC Euro gp 1
PORTUGAL 4 (Nogueira 2, Rui Costa 9, Joao Pinto II 23, Cadete 87)
MALTA 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Ulrich (Cze)
Portugal: Vitor Baia — Nogueira (Figo 70), Fernando Couto, Oceano, Abel Xavier — Semedo, Paulo Sousa, Rui Costa — Joao Pinto II, Cadete, Domingos (Rui Aguas 46).
Malta: Cluett — S Vella, Buhagiar, Delia, Cauchi — Buttigieg, Saliba, Gregory, J Camilleri (Scerri 66) — Laferla, Zerafa (R Vella 41).

Jun 19 = Pontiac/Silverdome — US Cup '93
GERMANY 2 (Effenberg 26, Klinsmann 55)
ENGLAND 1 (Platt 31)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 62,126. **Ref:** Cavani (Uru)
Germany: Illgner — Effenberg (Zorc 76), Helmer, Buchwald, Moller (Sammer 63), Matthaus, Schulz, Ziege, Strunz, Riedle, Klinsmann.
England: Martyn — Barrett, Pallister (Keown 53), Walker, Platt, Ince, Clough (Wright 70), Sinton, Merson, Barnes, Sharpe (Winterburn 46).

Jun 19 = Ambato — Copa America gp A
URUGUAY 2
VENEZUELA 2
● *See separate feature*

Jun 19 = Quito — Copa America gp A
ECUADOR 2
UNITED STATES 0
● *See separate feature*

SUNDAY, JUNE 20

Jun 20 = Chengdu — WC Asian gp A
PAKISTAN 5
JORDAN 0

Jun 20 = Chengdu — WC Asian gp A
CHINA 2
IRAQ 1

Jun 20 = Guayaquil — Copa America gp C
ARGENTINA 1
MEXICO 1
● *See separate feature*

Jun 20 = Machala — Copa America gp C
COLOMBIA 1
BOLIVIA 1
● *See separate feature*

MONDAY, JUNE 21

Jun 21 = Cuenca — Copa America gp B
PARAGUAY 1
PERU 1
● *See separate feature*

Jun 21 = Cuenca — Copa America gp B
CHILE 3
BRAZIL 2
● *See separate feature*

TUESDAY, JUNE 22

Jun 22 = Quito — Copa America gp A
UNITED STATES 3
VENEZUELA 3
● *See separate feature*

Jun 22 = Quito — Copa America gp A
ECUADOR 2
URUGUAY 1
● *See separate feature*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23

Jun 23 = Portoviejo — Copa America gp C
MEXICO 0
BOLIVIA 0
● *See separate feature*

Jun 23 = Guayaquil — Copa America gp C
ARGENTINA 1
COLOMBIA 1
● *See separate feature*

Jun 23 = Tehran — WC Asian gp B
SYRIA 2 (Mohamed Afash 17, Mustafa Qadeer 44)
TAIWAN 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 40,000.

Jun 23 = Tehran — WC Asian gp B
IRAN 0
OMAN 0
Att: 50,000.

OTHER MATCHES

May 29 *(Dublin/David O'Leary testimonial):* Rep Ireland XI 2, Hungary 4.
Jun 1: Moldavia 3, Romania B 2.
Jun 14: Australia 0, Milan 1.
Jun 16: Australia 0, Milan 2.

CONTINUED OVER

Sao Paulo retain Libertadores Cup . . . Colombia retain Pan-American Indoor title . . .

SOUTH AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP
Semi-finals — 1st leg

WEDNESDAY, May 5

In Santiago, Chile.
UNIV. CATOLICA (Chi) 1 (Lunari)
AMERICA (Col) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** J. Bava (Arg).
Univ. Catolica: Wirth, Romero, Vasques, Lopez, Tupper, Leppe, Parraquez, Lunari, L. Perez (Reinoso), Caro (Cardozo), Almada.
America: Gomez, Cabrera, Gimenenz, Cassiani, W. Perez, Villarroel, Escobar, Rincon, Lozano (Da Silva), Ferreira, De Avila.
● Playing under persistent rain, Universidad did not put up a good performance in winning 1-0. America dominated, but were again — as in an earlier round — let down by a goalkeeping mistake when the greasy ball slipped out of reserve Gomez's hand for Lunari to score an easy goal. But America's forwards also let the team down as they missed chance after chance in spite of being backed by a dominant midfield well-marshalled by Rincon.

In Sao Paulo, Brazil.
SAO PAULO (Bra) 1 (Rai)
CERRO PORTENO (Par) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 51,000. **Ref:** Jorge Nieves (Uru).
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Vitor, Valber, Gilmar, Rolando Luis, Pintado, Dinho, Rai, Cafu, Palhina, Muller.
Cerro Porteno: Mondragon, Gamarra, Cristaldo, Capurro, Dida, Alcarraz (Duarte), Struway, Sotelo, Arce, Chavez, Villagra (Riveros).
● Sao Paulo dominated the first half on a wet field on which they found it hard to play their usual style of good soccer and they had to fight hard to maintain their lead against the Paraguayans who were on top in the second half.

Semi-finals — 2nd legs

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

In Asuncion, Paraguay.
CERRO PORTENO (Par) 0
SAO PAULO (Bra) 0
Att: 40,000. **Ref:** Alberto Tejada (Peru).
Sao Paulo won 1-0 on agg
Cerro Porteno: Mondragon, Gamarra, Cristaldo, Capurro, Dida, Struway, Arce, Sotelo (Balu), V. Ferreira, Rossi, Villagra (Chaves).
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Vitor, Gilmar, Valber, Ronaldo Luis, Pintado, Dinho, Cafu, Rai, Palhinha, Muller.
● Again playing in rain and on a soft field which stopped both teams from playing their best soccer. Sao Paulo, with their excellent team work and individual play, were closer to opening the score and Cerro's Colombian goalkeeper, Mondragon, made some good saves.

In Cali, Colombia.
AMERICA (Col) 2 (J. Ferreira, De Avila)
UNIV. CATOLICA (Chi) 2 (Almada, Lunari)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** E. Fillipi (Uru).
Univ. Catolica won 3-2 on agg.
America: J. Gomez, Cabrera, Jimenez, Cassiani, Perez, Alvarez (Maturana), Rincon, Lozano, Escobar, J. Ferreira (Da Silva), De Avila.
Univ. Catolica: Wirth, Romero, Vasquez, Contreras, Lopez, Leppe, Parraguez, Tupper (Reinoso), Lunari, Almada, Perez (Cardozo).
● America gained a 2-0 lead within 15 minutes and looked like reaching the final, but then self-destructed once again and let the Chilean team off the hook. Universidad had the outstanding player of the night in goalkeeper Wirth who also saved a penalty from Escobar in the closing minute which still could have earned America a penalty shoot-out.

Final — 1st leg

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

In Sao Paulo, Brazil.
SAO PAULO (Bra) 5 (Lopez o.g, Dinho, Gilmar, Rai, Muller)
UNIV. CATOLICA (Chi) 1 (Almada pen)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 99,000. **Ref:** Jose Torres (Col).
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Vitor (Cafe), Valber, Gilmar, Ronaldo Luis (Andre), Pintado, Dinho, Rai, Cafu, Palhina, Muller.
Univ Catolica: Wirth, Contreres, Lopez (Barrera), Vasquez, Romero, Tupper, Lunari, Parraguez, Leppe, Almada, Perez (Reinoso).
● Universidad Catolica took the upper hand for the first half hour with some good soccer, but then Sao Paulo got going and the Chileans did not know what hit them. Five goals came at regular intervals with an outstanding exhibition of soccer by the Brazilians and Universidad pulled one back with a penalty only five minutes from the end through the tournament's leading scorer, Almada. But overall it was a very good game.

Sao Paulo celebrate retaining the Libertadores Cup.

Final — 2nd leg

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

In Santiago, Chile.
UNIV. CATOLICA (Chi) 2 (Lunari, Almada)
SAO PAULO (Bra) 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Juan Escobar (Par).
Sao Paulo won 5-3 on agg.
Univ. Catolica: Wirth, Romero, Vasquez, Contreras (Cardozo), Tupper, (Reinoso), Parraguez, Leppe, Lunari, Perez, Almada, Barrera.
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Vitor (Toninho Cerezo), Gilmar, Valber, Macos Adriano, Pintado, Dinho, Rai, Palhinha, Muller, Cafu.
● Sao Paulo had some anxious moments early on when Universidad made a valiant effort to wipe out the huge first leg deficit with two goals in the first 15 minutes, but the Chileans lacked composure to capitalise on their good start against a Sao Paulo team not playing at their best. But Sao Paulo were calmer than Universidad whose players became more nervous as the minutes ticked by. Nevertheless, it was a better than usual final.

NORTH/CENTRAL AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (CONCACAF/AMERICAN AIRLINES CUP 1993)

Caribbean zone — 2nd round, 2nd legs
ASL Sport Guyanais (FG) 1
Trintoc (T&T) 1
Trintoc won 3-1 on agg.

Third round — 1st leg
Robin Hood (Sur) 1
Trintoc (T&T) 0
Franciscain (Mar) 1
L'Aiglon du Lamentin (Mar) 1

Third round — 2nd leg
L'Aiglon du Lamentin (Mar) 2
Franciscain (Mar) 0
L'Aiglon won 3-1 on agg.
Trintoc (T&T) 0 Robin Hood (Sur) 0
Robin Hood won 1-0 on agg.

North Central American zone — 1st round, 1st leg
Diriangen (Nic) 0 Alianza (ES) 2
Plaza Amador (Pan) 5 Juventus (Nic) 0.

1st round, 2nd leg
Real Espana (Hon) 3 Acroz (Bel) 0
Real Espana won 5-1 on agg.
Plaza Amador (Pan) 4
Juventus (Nic) 0
Plaza Amador won 9-0 on agg.

PAN-AMERICAN INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP
(in La Paz, Bolivia, May 12-18)
Final round: Colombia 4 Paraguay 2; Bolivia 2 Brazil 2; Colombia 5 Brazil 2; Bolivia 1 Paraguay 0; Colombia 2 Bolivia 1; Paraguay 6 Brazil 3. **Final standings:** 1 Colombia 6pts *(retain title)*; 2 Bolivia 3, 3 Paraguay 2; 4 Brazil 1

AMERICAN AIRLINES CUP 1993

CARIBBEAN ZONE
First round — 1st leg
North Area
14.03.93 Zion Inter. (Vl) v L'Etoile (Guad) ..... w/o
L'Etoile withdrew, Zion qualify
17.03.93 La Juventa (Guad) v Tempete (Haiti) .. w/o
Tempete withdrew, La Juventa qualify
17.03.93 Franciscain (Mar) v Coca-Cola (Vl) 10-1
17.03.93 R. des Gonaives (Hai) v L'Aiglon (Mar) w/o
Racing withdrew, L'Aiglon qualify
South Area
17.03.93 Sithoc (DA) v T&T Hawks (T & T) ..... w/o
Hawks withdrew, Sithoc qualify
17.03.93 C. Colonial (FG) v Robin Hood (Sur) 0-1
17.03.93 Leo Victor (Sur) v Sport Guyanais (FG) 0-0
20.03.93 Trintoc FC (T & T) v Juventus (DA) 2-0

First round — 2nd leg
North Area
27.03.93 Coca-Cola R v Club Franciscain .. 2-6
Club Franciscain won 16-3 on agg
South Area
23.03.93 Juventus v Trintoc FC 0-2
Trintoc won 4-0 on agg
31.03.93 Robin Hood v Club Colonial 1-0
Robin Hood won 2-0 on agg
31.03.93 ASL Sport Guyanais v Leo Victor 3-1
ASL won 3-1 on agg

Second round — 1st leg
07.04.93
Series A La Juventa v Club Franciscain 1-0
Series B L'Etoile de Morne v L'Aiglon 0-3
Series C Sithoc v Robin Hood 2-1
22.04.93
Series D Trintoc v ASL Sport Guyanais 2-0

Second round — 2nd leg
21.04.93
Series A Club Franciscain v La Juventa 2-0
Club Franciscain won 3-0 on agg
Series B L'Aiglon v L'Etoile de Morne 0-0
L'Aiglon won 3-0 on agg
Series C Robin Hood v Sithoc 3-0
Robin Hood won 4-2 on agg
28.04.93
Series D ASL Sport Guyanais v Trintoc 1-1
Trintoc won 3-1 on agg

Third round — 1st leg
02.05.93 Robin Hood v Trintoc 1-0
05.05.93 Club Franciscain v L'Aiglon 1-1

Third round — 2nd leg
12.05.93 L'Aiglon v Club Franciscain 2-0
L'Aiglon won 3-1 on agg
14.05.93 Trintoc v Robin Hood 0-0
Robin Hood won 1-0 on agg

Fourth round — 1st leg
04.06.93 L'Aiglon v Robin Hood

Fourth round — 2nd leg
16.06.93 Robin Hood v L'Aiglon

NORTH AND CENTRAL ZONE
First round — 1st leg
Group A
18.04.93 Acroz (Bel) v Real Espana (Hon) 1-2
26.05.93 Sp. Colon (Pan) v Comunicaciones (Guat)
Group B
23.05.93 Juventus (Bel) v Hercules (US) .. w/o
Hercules withdrew, Juventus qualify
23.05.93 Diriangen (Nic) v Alianza (ES) 0-2
Group C
28.05.93 P. Amador (Pan) v Juventus (Nic) 5-0

First round — 2nd leg
Group A
24.04.93 Real Espana v Acroz 3-0
Real Espana won 5-1 on agg
06.06.93 Comunicaciones v Sporting Colon
Group B
02.06.93 Alianza v Diriangen
Group C
30.05.93 Juventus (Nic) v Plaza Amador ... 0-4
Plaza Amador won 9-0 on agg

Second round — 1st leg
Group A
23.06.93 Real Espana v Leon (Mex)
23.06.93 Comunicaciones/Sp Colon v Alajuela (CR)

Group B
23.06.93 Juventus (Bel) v Montagua (Hon)
23.06.93 Alianza/Diriangen v Municipal (Guat)

Group C
26.05.93 Puebla (Mex) v Saprissa (CR)
23.06.93 Plaza Amador v LA Firpo (ES)

Second round — 2nd leg
Group A
30.06.93 Leon v Real Espana
30.06.93 Alajuela v Comunicaciones/Sp Colon

Group B
30.06.93 Montagua v Juventus (Bel)
30.06.93 Municipal v Alianza/Diriangen

Group C
02.06.93 Saprissa v Puebla
02.06.93 LA Firpo v Plaza Amador

AFRICA

1994 AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP

Hosts: Tunisia.
Holders: Ivory Coast.
Both qualify automatically.

PRELIMINARY ROUND
14.06.92 Lesotho v Botswana 0-0
14.06.92 Guinea Bissau v Cape Verde 3-1
28.06.92 Botswana v Lesotho 0-4
Lesotho won 4-0 on agg
28.06.92 Cape Verde v Guinea Bissau 0-1
Guinea Bissau won 4-1 on agg

GROUP 1
(Winners qualify)
16.08.92 Gabon v Cameroon 0-0
16.08.92 Benin v Niger 1-2
30.08.92 Cameroon v Benin 2-0
30.08.92 Niger v Gabon 1-3
11.04.93 Gabon v Benin 2-0
11.04.93 Niger v Cameroon 0-0
25.04.93 Niger v Benin 4-1
25.04.93 Cameroon v Gabon 0-0
11.07.93 Benin v Cameroon
11.07.93 Gabon v Niger
25.07.93 Benin v Gabon
25.07.93 Cameroon v Niger

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gabon	4	2	2	0	5	1	6
Niger	4	2	1	1	7	5	5
Cameroon	4	1	3	0	2	0	5
Benin	4	0	0	4	2	10	0

GROUP 2
(Winners qualify)
15.08.92 Uganda v Ethiopia 3-1
16.08.92 Sudan v Nigeria 0-0
29.08.92 Nigeria v Uganda 2-0
29.08.92 Ethiopia v Sudan 3-0
11.04.93 Ethiopia v Nigeria 1-0
11.04.93 Sudan v Uganda 1-1
24.04.93 Nigeria v Sudan 4-0
25.04.93 Ethiopia v Uganda 2-2
10.07.93 Uganda v Nigeria
11.07.93 Sudan v Ethiopia
24.07.93 Uganda v Sudan
24.07.93 Nigeria v Ethiopia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	4	2	1	1	6	1	5
Ethiopia	4	2	1	1	7	5	5
Uganda	4	1	2	1	6	6	4
Sudan	4	0	2	2	1	8	1

GROUP 3
(Top two qualify)
16.08.92 Algeria v Guniea Bissau 3-1
16.08.92 Senegal v Togo 2-0
29.08.92 Sierra Leone v Algeria 1-0
30.08.92 Senegal v Guinea Bissau 3-0
03.10.92 Togo v Algeria 0-0
04.10.92 Guinea Bissau v Sierra Leone . 0-3
08.11.92 Sierra Leone v Senegal 2-0
08.11.92 Togo v Guinea Bissau 0-0
10.01.93 Sierra Leone v Togo 0-0
10.01.93 Senegal v Algeria 1-2
23.01.93 Togo v Senegal 1-1
24.01.93 Guinea Bissau v Algeria 1-4
09.04.93 Algeria v Sierra Leone 0-0
11.04.93 Guinea Bissau v Senegal 0-3
23.04.93 Algeria v Togo 4-0
24.04.93 Sierra Leone v Guinea Bissau . 2-0
11.07.93 Senegal v Sierra Leone
11.07.93 Guinea Bissau v Togo
24.07.93 Togo v Sierra Leone
25.07.93 Algeria v Senegal

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sierra Leone	6	4	2	0	8	0	10
Algeria	7	4	2	1	13	4	10
Senegal	6	3	1	2	10	5	7
Togo	6	0	4	2	1	7	4
Guinea Bissau	7	0	1	6	2	19	0

GROUP 4
(Winners qualify)
16.08.92 Zaire v Mozambique 2-0
16.08.92 Lesotho v Kenya 2-2
29.08.92 Kenya v Zaire 1-3
30.08.92 Mozambique v Lesotho 3-0
11.04.93 Lesotho v Zaire 1-1
11.04.93 Mozambique v Kenya 0-0
25.04.93 Kenya v Lesotho 3-0
25.04.93 Mozambique v Zaire 0-0
11.07.93 Zaire v Kenya
11.07.93 Lesotho v Mozambique
24.07.93 Kenya v Mozambique
25.07.93 Zaire v Lesotho

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zaire	2	2	0	0	5	1	4
Mozambique	2	1	0	1	3	2	2
Kenya	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Lesotho	2	0	1	1	2	5	1

GROUP 5
(Winners qualify)
16.08.92 Zambia v Mauritius 2-1
16.08.92 Zimbabwe v South Africa 4-1
30.08.92 Mauritius v Zimbabwe 0-1
30.08.92 South Africa v Zambia 0-1
10.04.93 South Africa v Mauritius 0-0
11.04.93 Zambia v Zimbabwe 0-0
24.04.93 South Africa v Zimbabwe 1-1
25.04.93 Mauritius v Zambia 0-3
11.07.93 Zimbabwe v Mauritius
11.07.93 Zambia v South Africa
25.07.93 Zimbabwe v Zambia
25.07.93 Mauritius v South Africa

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zambia	4	3	1	0	6	1	7
Zimbabwe	4	2	2	0	6	2	6
South Africa	4	0	2	2	2	6	2
Mauritius	4	0	1	3	1	6	1

GROUP 6
(Winners qualify)
16.08.92 Burundi v Congo 1-0
30.08.92 Guinea v Burundi 2-2
11.04.93 Guinea v Congo 1-0
25.04.93 Congo v Burundi 0-0
11.07.93 Burundi v Guinea
25.07.93 Congo v Guinea

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burundi	3	1	2	0	3	2	4
Guinea	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Congo	3	0	1	2	0	2	1

★ ***Chad withdrew.***

GROUP 7
(Winners qualify)
11.04.93 Ghana v Liberia 1-0
25.07.93 Liberia v Ghana

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
Liberia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

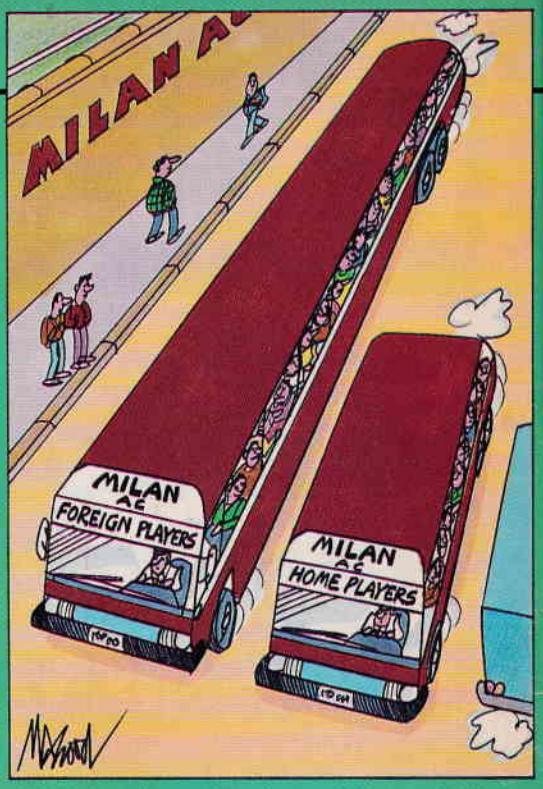
★ ***Tanzania & Burkino Faso withdrew.***

GROUP 8
(Top two qualify)
15.08.92 Malawi v Egypt 1-0
29.08.92 Malawi v Mali 1-1
04.10.92 Mali v Morocco 2-1
08.11.92 Morocco v Egypt 0-0
09.04.93 Egypt v Mali 2-1
11.04.93 Morocco v Malawi 0-1
23.04.93 Egypt v Malawi 2-0
25.04.93 Morocco v Mali 1-0
09.07.93 Egypt v Morocco
11.07.93 Mali v Malawi
24.07.93 Malawi v Morocco
25.07.93 Mali v Egypt

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Egypt	4	2	1	1	4	2	5
Malawi	4	2	1	1	3	3	5
Mali	4	1	1	2	4	5	3
Morocco	4	1	1	2	2	3	3

★ ***Mauritania and Libya withdrew.***

Unhappy . . . Gullit. Unhappy . . . Rijkaard.



MILAN'S MATHS DON'T ADD UP

WHEN Basile Boli back-headed that rather soft and simple goal against Milan in Munich, he struck a blow for football at large. Not excluding football in Italy.

You might well say that Marseille did not win that Champions' Cup Final: Milan lost it. But in losing, whatever the mitigating circumstances, they surely exposed the dangers and deficiencies of Silvio Berlusconi's greedy policy on foreign stars.

He had six, as we all know, all too well. Rijkaard announced on the eve of the final that he no longer wanted to stay with Milan, though he was in the team.

Papin eventually got on the field, to no great effect, but on the day of the match, his bitter outburst was given large projection in Italy.

A demoralised and injured Savicevic did not come into the picture at all.

Gullit, who had expressed a wish to play up front, not on the right flank, was condemned to the stands with Boban, the talented Croat.

You hardly had to be clairvoyant to know that six into three won't go, that there was bound to be strife, disappointment and dissension among those foreigners excluded.

At the start of the season, there were tales that both Yugoslavs had been offered to Marseille, but would not go. Gullit publicly stated his displeasure at not winning a place. Papin had his outburst. So did Savicevic.

Then there was, and is, Simone, who also made his disillusioned voice heard. An Italian of high quality, a centre-forward who scores important goals both in Europe and at home, a full international who scarcely played for Milan all season.

Kept out by that phalanx of foreigners. Likely, now, to move, but only after wasted years.

Even in the Italian Championship, Milan flagged very badly — despite their depth of resources — ever since the bubble burst.

Inter, in the end, chased them home, and might have made a still closer run of it, were it not for some arcane refereeing decisions in their drawn home game against Foggia, for whom Roy punched the equaliser, Sosa missed a penalty he was made to take again, and De Agostini was sent off by mistake for someone else!

President Berlusconi, coach Capello and Milan could justifiably point to the fact that injuries hurt them badly. Not least that to Van Basten, the subject of a harsh foul off the ball by the gentle Boli.

But Marseille, who should have won the Cup two years earlier in Bari, have done football a favour.

What is this strange new arrogance which persuaded teams, not just in Europe but in Britain, to dispense with two defenders on the line at corners?

Boli's back-header may have been intended as a flick on rather than the lethally decisive strike it turned out to be. And this because, as the ball sailed beyond keeper Rossi, there was nobody on the far post to come to his rescue.

Clubs pay untold millions of pounds to build teams, pay players in further millions, yet fail in the simplest tactical sense to protect goals at corners.

Someone deserves to be shot, but don't ask me who.

Worsening whistlers, continued

HAS there ever been less effective refereeing than we saw from the hapless Keran Barratt (left) in the FA Cup Final and the replay?

The FA ought to have replaced Barratt after the lack of authority he showed in the first sour, harsh, boring match between Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday. Instead, he lived to ref another day, and what a sad hash he made of it.

If players behaved properly, there would be no need to lament weak refereeing. But they don't and they won't when there's a poor referee in charge.

Partly because defenders, in particular, will try to gain unfair advantage in stopping forwards, but also because, alas, when the referee loses control, Gun Law ensues. As it did in the replay between the Gunners and the Owls.

The moment which began the slide into anarchy came very early in the game, with a shocking foul by Jensen on Waddle, who may or may not have made a meal of it.

The foul was nasty enough by any standard but Barratt did not even pull out a yellow card. Which gave Jensen licence, if that is the word, to commit another displeasing foul, again without seeing yellow. Nor did Bright see red when he elbowed Linighan in the face. A yellow card was all he got.

I wrote last month about declining standards of refereeing, and you might say that Barratt's performances merely put the lid on a shocking season.

Certainly things have been much harder for refs since the imposition in 1990 of Havelange's botched version of the professional foul rule. It was, as I've always said, absurd to apply it in a kind of double indemnity to the penalty area, too.

The result has been that, as often as not, the referee gives the penalty but does not send the player off, for which, though it ignores the law, I do not blame him.

Nor, after a full season of it, am I in any way persuaded that the new law limiting back-passes to goalkeepers has really benefitted the game.

But at least Blatter's idiocy of the kick-in has so far been kept at bay. So far.

SCARCELY had David O'Leary made his emotional and emotive lap of honour at Highbury, after a benefit match attended by a heartening 22,000, than clubs were queuing up to acquire him.

Fine words butter no parsnips, and all the kind things George Graham had to say about O'Leary, after giving him his free transfer, did not obscure the fact that the two were hardly bosom buddies. Why, if they had been, would Graham — that eminent collector of centre-backs — have let him go?

Much was made of O'Leary's 20 years at Highbury, and his record there, indeed, has been exemplary, a compound of talent and loyalty, shown by a man whose courtesy, fluency and decency mark him out at a time when such qualities hardly prevail in our professional game.

The man who makes O'Leary seem young

But the record of a previous Arsenal centre-half, Leslie Compton, is still more remarkable for its longevity.

He and his younger brother, Denis, superlative batsman and inspired outside-left, began their soccer careers with the old Hampstead Town club, which in time became Golders Green and then Hendon.

In 1932, as a 19-year-old full-back, Leslie joined Arsenal. The idea then was that he would succeed the veteran skipper, Tom Parker, a steady influence over a team who, under Herbert Chapman, had come to dominate English football.

But it didn't happen. Leslie was too slow, at least in Chapman's view. He preferred George Male, who became good enough to win 19 caps for England, often with Eddie Hapgood, the Arsenal skipper, as his partner.

Leslie Compton soldiered on in the reserves. Goodness knows why no other club went for him.

Perhaps it was just because he was so happy at Highbury, which players were in those days.

By the start of World War Two he was still an Arsenal reserve, but had taken part in two international trials.

The war, ironically — when football was no longer "official" — helped his career to take off. First as a centre-forward, where he was picked for England, then as the Arsenal left-back, partner to the rising Laurie Scott, and later at centre-half.

Tall and powerful, unbeatable in the air, he headed a priceless goal to draw the first semi-final against Chelsea at White Hart Lane in the 1950 FA Cup.

Joe Mercer, the skipper, angrily motioned him not to go upfield as brother Denis prepared to take a corner. But Leslie kept on advancing, met the corner with his head, and beat Chelsea's keeper to give Arsenal another chance. Which they took, then going on to win the Final.

Later that year, at the ripe old age of 38 — O'Leary is "only" 35 — Les was twice capped for England, at Sunderland against Wales, and most appropriately at Highbury against Yugoslavia.

He did not excel in either game, but it was surely a proper reward for "Big 'Ead" as the Arsenal crowd called him, long before the soubriquet was bestowed by Jim Gregory on Brian Clough.

Leslie died a few years ago, but Denis is still with us, and recently turned 75.

Infinite thanks, Denis, for the joy you gave me and so many others, and roll on many another birthday!

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ENGLISH FOOTBALL IN CRISIS

SEPTEMBER ISSUE OUT ON 13th AUGUST

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Albertini in action.

The stadium and...

Close up and...

The stadium again.

Ielpo's frown.

What legs!

The act of supporting.

Savicevic's stare.

100% Milan.

Supporter in disguise.

A view of the stadium.

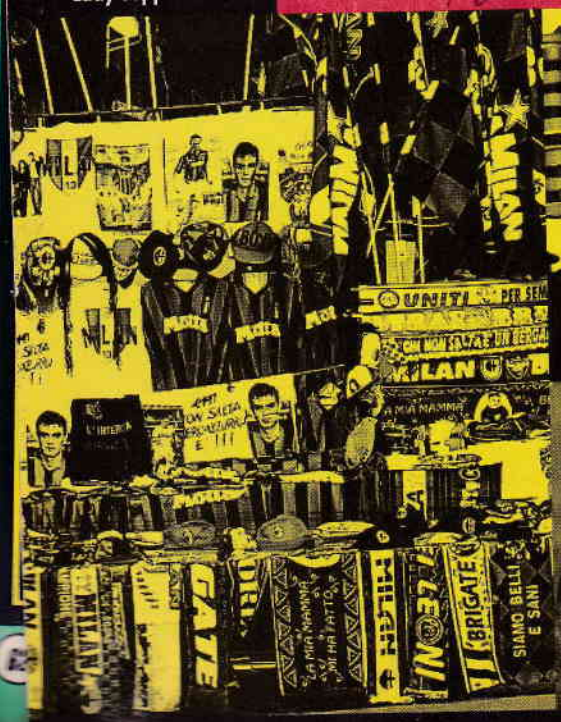
Committed supporter.

A.C. MILAN :
SOCCER IS LIFE.

The flag of victory.

Lady supporter.

The red and the blac



Come on Milan!

That's imaginative!

Red and black devil.

Rossi astonished.

lotto
Italian Sports Design